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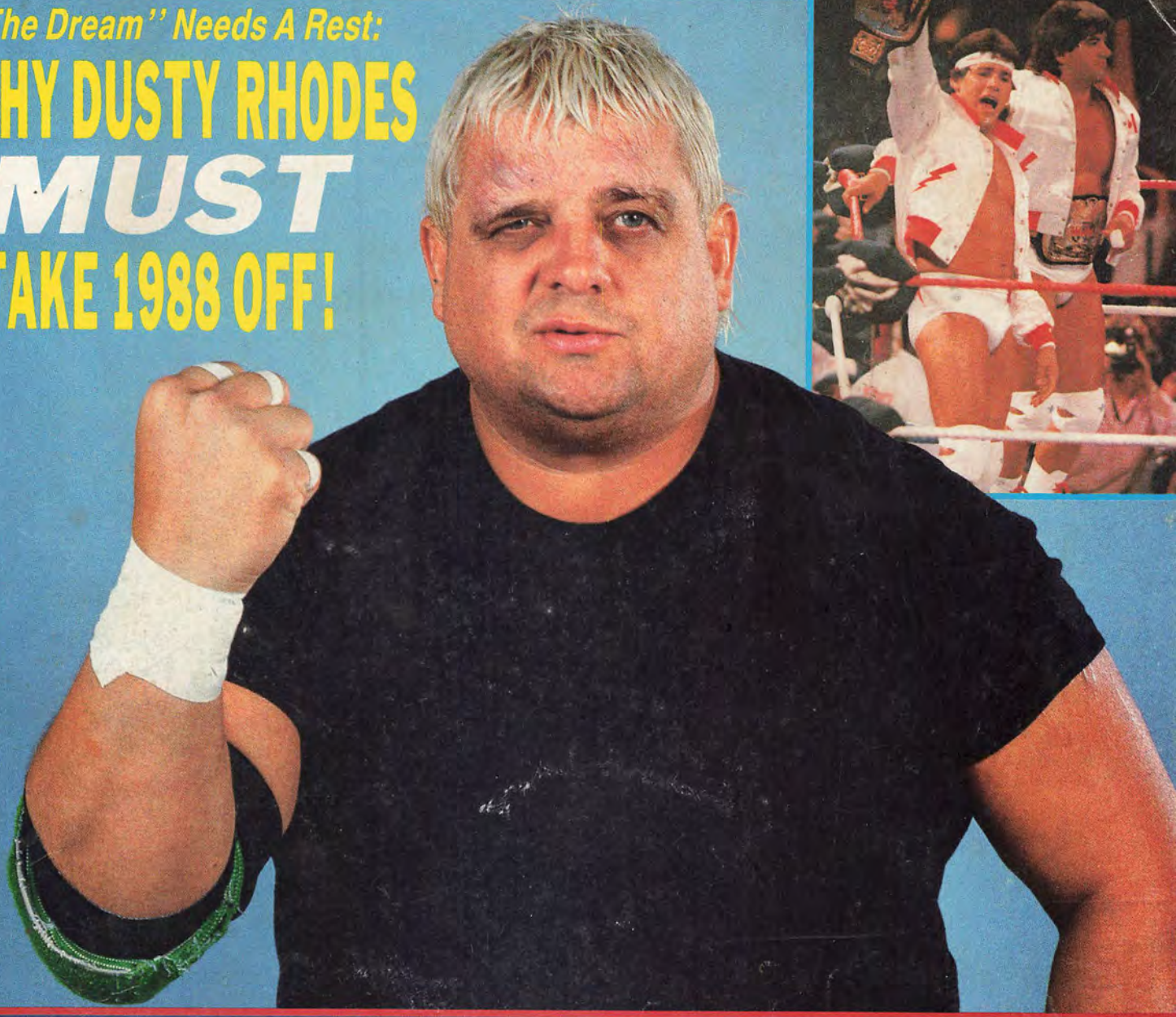

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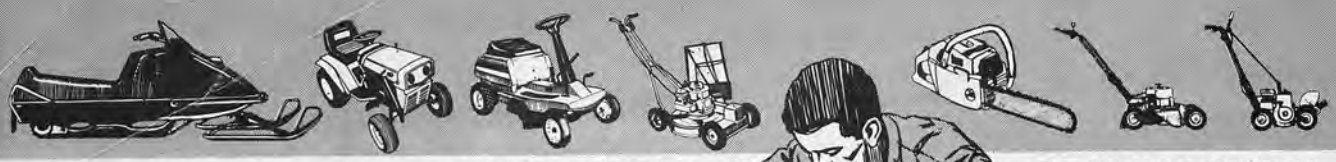

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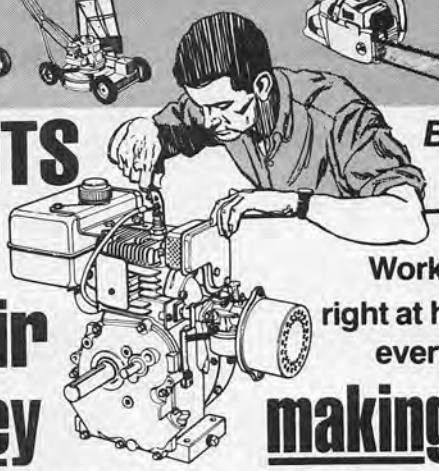

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THE GIANT SURVIVES

"End of a Legend? Did Hulk Hogan Ruin Andre the Giant For Good?" These were the questions asked in the December 1987 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling.*

Are you kidding? If Lex Luger lost his U.S. title, would you say his career was ruined? Now that Ron Garvin has beaten Ric Flair, has "The Nature Boy's" dominance of the NWA come to an end? The answer to all these questions is obviously "no."

Andre went well over a decade without a defeat. He is one of wrestling's all-time greatest stars. Admittedly, Andre is well past his prime, but is it fair to say his career is "ruined" after one defeat? Hulk Hogan is in his prime, a powerful, charismatic young champion. He was lucky to defeat Andre. To say Hulk "ruined" Andre's career with one pinfall is absolutely ludicrous.

Andre the Giant slams Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania III. Reader Eric Kleiman insists that Andre's career certainly did not end when he lost that match. In fact, he writes, it's far from over.

Andre the Giant might not be as awesome as he was 10 years ago, but his career is far from over.

Another subject: Paul Orndorff is currently parading around soaking up the cheers of the fans. I cannot argue with the November 1987 "We Accuse" in *Sports Review Wrestling.* The editors accused the fans of cheering those who don't deserve to be cheered. Paul Orndorff is scum. He obviously has no morals. How long do you think it will be before Orndorff is back in Heenan's family? A month? Two months? Maybe Orndorff will really hold a grudge this time and stay a fan favorite for a whole year! I know I'm being sarcastic, but I have every reason to be. This man doesn't deserve your cheers. Paul Orndorff deserves nothing.

ERIC KLEIMAN
Chattanooga, TN

TWO NEW "GHOULS"

Congratulations, guys. After seeing the cover and reading your "chilling" article in the December 1987 *Sports Review Wrestling* ("Grappling Ghouls: Don't Answer The Door For These Halloween Horrors!"), I must say it made me shiver with enjoyment. I don't think I know of any magazine that would publish something like this, not to mention the cover. What a close-up of Road Warrior Hawk!

I especially enjoyed seeing the one of Abdullah the Butcher's kitchen utensils going into Dusty Rhodes' big, fat head. It was great! I do, however, have some criticisms I hope will not be offensive—I don't think it was scary enough. You left out two wrestlers who should be in the ugly category—Hulk Hogan for one; that guy is ugly enough to scare away the mice. And Randy Savage may be a good guy, but he's no Lex Luger. With his long, straight hair and his devilish beard, he is ugly to high hell, man!

Again, I enjoyed the feature and hope next year it'll be scarier, with *Savage* sticking out his tongue on the cover. Who knows, maybe next year

(Continued on page 62)

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THE TATTLER

ST. PAUL, MN: AWA World champion Curt Hennig and former tag team partner Greg Gagne, currently involved in a heated war, are on the verge of bringing in their famous retired fathers to help settle matters.

Verne Gagne, a nine-time former AWA World champion, and Larry Hennig, who feuded brutally with Verne in the mid-1960s, both said they would form a tag team with their sons shortly. Many experts blame Larry for influencing his son's sudden change from fan favorite to rulebreaker. Hennig won the belt shortly after the switch.

"Those Gagnes are always trying to tell everybody how to act," said Larry, a four-time former AWA World tag team champ. "If you ask me, that little Gagne boy is embarrassed because his dad won the title so many times and he can't even win it once. Well, I never won it either, but I'm damn proud of my boy for doing what his old man couldn't do, and I'm gonna back him up."

LARRY & CURT HENNIG

AWA President Stanley Blackburn confirmed that a Curt and Larry Hennig vs. Greg and Verne Gagne match has been discussed but that several details remained to be worked out. "Besides," said Blackburn, "we'd like to see Curt and Greg settle their differences on their own before Larry and Verne come out of retirement. That would be a drastic measure."

The current atmosphere in the AWA might actually lead to a reconciliation between Curt and Greg. Larry Zbyszko, the sadistic badman who encouraged Hennig to become a rulebreaker, recently left the AWA for the NWA, leaving Curt on his own. Paul E. Dangerously, manager of World tag team champions Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose, indicated that he might send one of his men after Hennig's belt. Dangerously's dream is to manage a world heavyweight champion.

If things can't be worked out, however, Verne is ready to stand by his son. "Greg's conduct since becoming a wrestler has made me proud," said Verne, "and I've never

(Continued on page 52)

CORRESPONDENTS

CHARLES F. AMBERSON
St. Paul, MN

HENRY BAIRD
Allentown, PA

ANDRE CAMUS
Montreal, Quebec

LARRY COHEN
Chicago, IL

CEDERIC COLERIDGE
Sydney, Australia

ALISON COREY
New York, NY

BUDDY FORD
St. Louis, MO

B.W. FOREMAN
Atlanta, GA

BUTCH GALLAGHER
San Francisco, CA

BELINDA GETTLER
Shreveport, LA

DIANE GOH
Honolulu, HI

WARREN KNOWLES
Seattle, WA

RICH KONSENS
Cleveland, OH

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GARRETT MILLER
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KEN MIRANDA
Greensboro, NC

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London, England

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The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

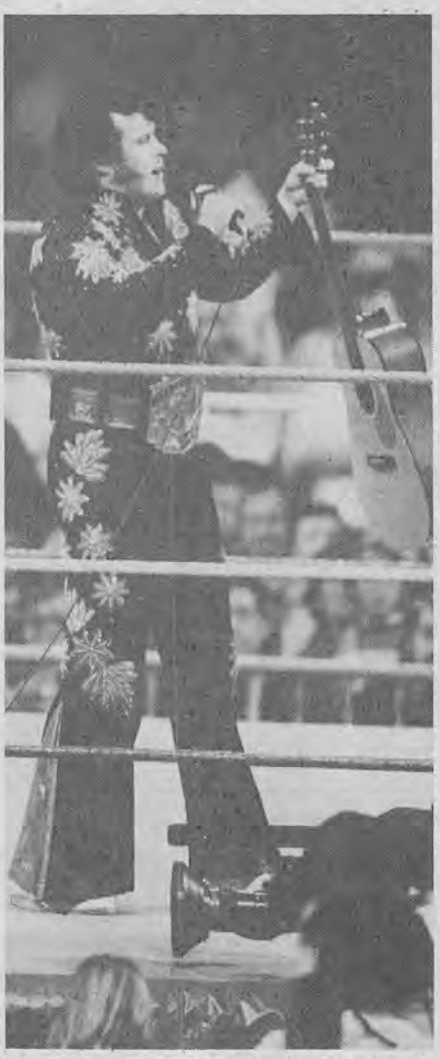
THE QUESTION:
"With the holiday season upon us, what gift would you give to your favorite [or least favorite] wrestler?"

THE ANSWERS:
Roy Johnson, Las Vegas, NV: "I would give the Honky Tonk Man some singing lessons. Seriously! I'm not putting Honky Tonk down like most people do, I just think that with a little training he could become as good a singer as he is a wrestler. The man's a great entertainer and knows how to move, but his voice doesn't have the range yet. Actually, I'm quite fond of his voice; it just needs a little polish. He's already better than Michael Hayes or Ricky Morton."

Mindy Roberts, Newport News, VA: "A bad case of tennis elbow for Jim Cornette. And lockjaw."

Pat MacDurkin, Lexington, KY: "A decent federation for The Midnight Rockers to wrestle in."

Jaime Gilkie, Galveston, TX: "I would give Kerry Von Erich a new ankle to replace the one that was shattered in the motorcycle crash. I'm glad that he made his comeback. But having a brand-new ankle would bring him back to the days when he was one of the most exciting wrestlers anywhere."



The Honky Tonk Man attempts to entertain his "fans." One reader, who actually likes the Intercontinental champion's voice, would give him singing lessons for a Christmas present to increase his range.

Walter Fishon, Eau Claire, WI: "I would give Curt Hennig a new set of morals to replace the ones he threw aside when he became AWA champion. This new Hennig is pathetic."

Eppie Whittaker, Silver Spring, MD: "I would give The Road Warriors a match with Demolition, with the loser having to leave wrestling forever. That'd finally get rid of Demolition. And I'd let the 'new' and 'original' Midnight Expresses fight it out for sole right to use the name."

Bruno Phillips, Englewood, NJ: "I would give Hulk Hogan his own federation where he could wrestle scientific wrestlers. Think about it . . ."

Johnny Radbell, Canton, OH: "A new boyfriend for Missy Hyatt. Namely, one who'll know how to finally shut her up! Gads, all that bimbo does is talk, talk, talk, talk. Nothing she says makes sense, either."

Roger Duchense, Springfield, MA: "I would give Gorilla Monsoon a seeing-eye dog who would be specially trained

(Continued on page 54)

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SCRAPBOOK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1968

THE FANS VOTED high-flying Edouard Carpentier the "Most Popular Wrestler" ... A bloody brawl pitting the tag team of Pepper Gomez and Ray Stevens against Cyclone Negro and Pat Patterson triggered the worst riot in the history of the San Francisco Cow Palace ... Al Costello actively sought a replacement for Roy Heffernan to reform The Fabulous Kangaroos ... Bulldog Brower and Johnny Powers feuded in Toronto ... Greek star Spiros Arion announced his intention to add 35 pounds to his 265-pound frame to add more strength ... Johnny Valentine lost his U.S. title to Asiatic champion Tiger Jeet Singh, who had dropped 50 pounds in preparation for the match ... Young Terry Funk became involved in the first major feud of his career, against Japanese strongman Hiro Matsuda ... Dewey Robertson, from Kitchener, Ontario, was being touted as the most promising rookie in Canada ... Sweet Daddy Siki formed a singing group called "The Irresistibles" ... Youngster Les Thatcher began a feud with veteran Man Mountain Cannon. Les surprised everyone by handing Cannon several brutal beatings ... Giant Baba began a tour of the Hawaiian Islands ... Mid-Atlantic fans hoped George Becker and Johnny Weaver would rid the area of the hated J.C. Dykes and his Masked Infernos ... Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods took Bobby Shane under his wing as Bobby became involved in a bitter rivalry with El Mongol ... Bob Orton Sr. and Iron Mike DiBiase pulled a sneak-attack on Mighty Igor in Sioux City, Iowa. Igor was hospitalized with several cracked ribs but vowed to get revenge ... Tag team partners Harley Race and Larry Hennig demanded that the press refer to them as "Handsome" and "Pretty Boy," respectively. NWA RATINGS: 1—Gene Kiniski; 2—Tiger Jeet Singh; 3—Johnny Valentine; 4—Eddie Graham; 5—Lou Thesz; 6—Fritz Von Erich; 7—Wilbur Snyder; 8—Bulldog Brower; 9—Bob Orton Sr.; 10—Pat O'Connor. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Gorilla Monsoon; 3—Hans Mortier; 4—Spiros Arion; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—Arnold Skaaland; 8—Bobo Brazil; 9—Dr. Bill Miller; 10—Luke Graham. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—The Sheik; 3—Larry Hennig; 4—Bruiser; 5—Wilbur Snyder; 6—Crusher; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Doug Gilbert; 9—Reggie Parks; 10—Blackjack Lanza. TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—The Assassins; 3—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 4—Larry Hennig &

(Continued on page 56)

In this 1968 photo, Edouard Carpentier trains for a big match. Carpentier was voted 1967's "Most Popular Wrestler" by the fans. He was known for his high-flying moves.

A young Terry Funk chinlocks Hiro Matsuda. Funk's 1968 feud with Matsuda was the first major confrontation of his career. Both men have had a major impact on the state of wrestling in Florida and both are still very active today.

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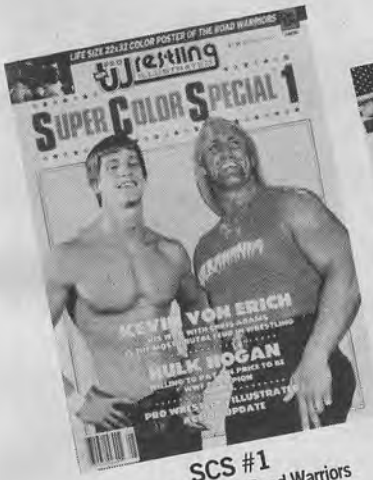
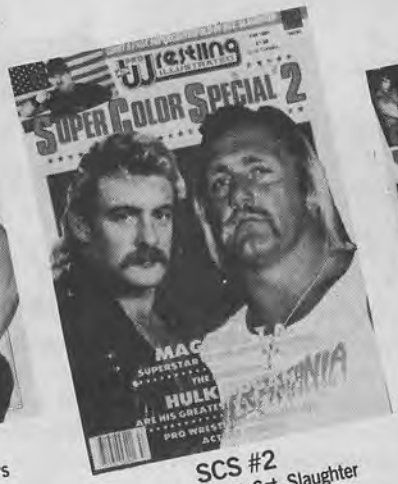
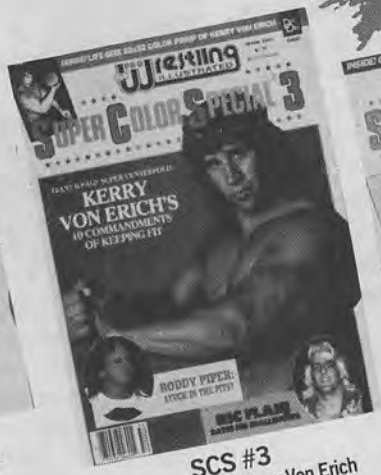


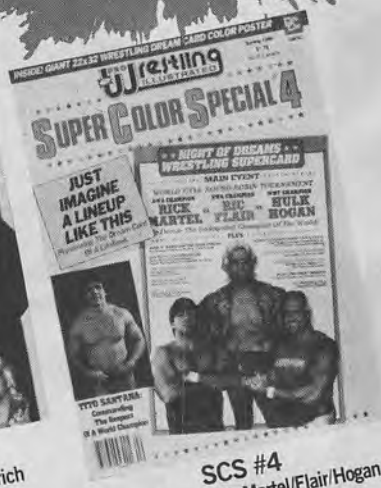
SCS #1
SuperCenterfold: Road Warriors



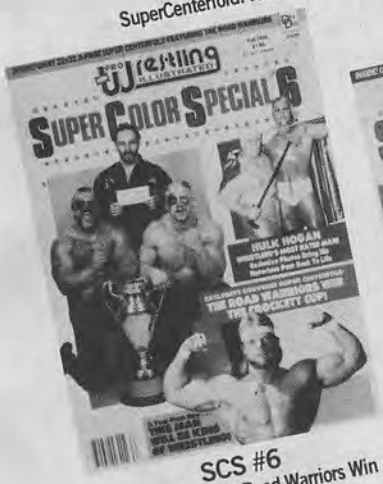
SCS #2
SuperCenterfold: Sgt. Slaughter



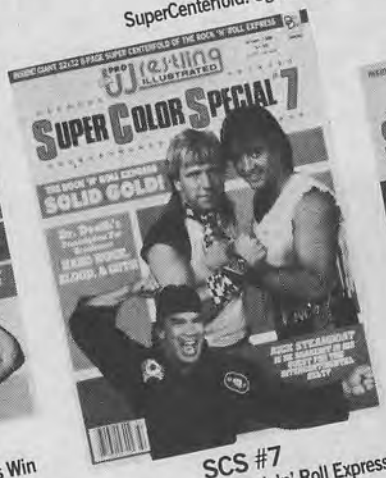
SCS #3
SuperCenterfold: Kerry Von Erich



SCS #4
SuperCenterfold: Martel/Flair/Hogan



SCS #6
SuperCenterfold: Road Warriors Win Crockett Cup



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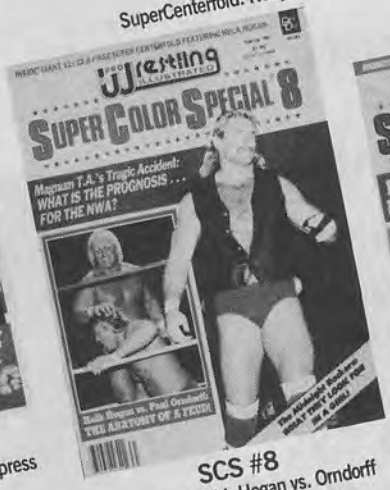
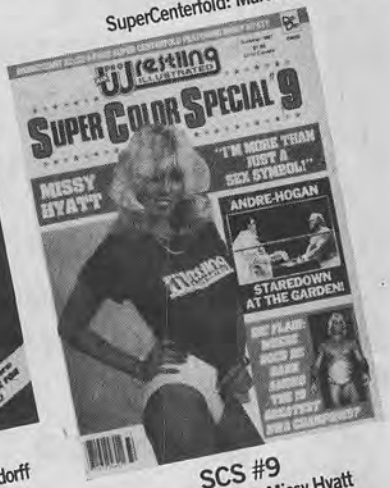
SuperCenterfold: Rock 'n' Roll Express



SCS #8
SuperCenterfold: Hogan vs. Orndorff



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SuperCenterfold: Missy Hyatt

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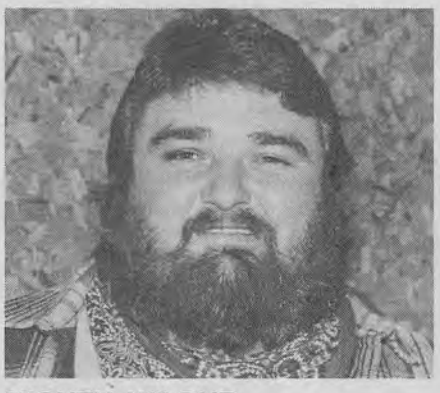
THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Do the fans make a difference in how you wrestle?"

Submitted by: Dawn Zimmerman Sheboygan, WI



MIGHTY WILBUR

"Well, I sure wrestle better when I've got the fans cheering me, 'cause that way I feel better about myself. Ol' puddin' head Paul Jones said the only way to be successful in this business was to forget the fans and be mean to everyone, but I don't think that's true at all. In fact, since I fired him as my manager, I been winning just the same and makin' loads of new friends."

ADRIAN ADONIS

"I don't, never have, and never will let what the fans think affect my ring style. I've seen so called 'fan favorites' make themselves sick to their little stomachs because they worried if the fans would still like them if they do what *has* to be done to get ahead in this business. No matter what you do, some fans will always find something not to like."

WENDELL COOLEY

"Well, I thought that I didn't need the fans, because Robert Fulton and Jimmy Golden promised me there'd be titles galore in my future if I started breaking rules. But if the people don't approve of how you got them, then titles are worthless. When I realized the whole arena was against me and the people didn't approve, well, it just made it feel like I had lead weights on my hands and feet."

EDDIE GILBERT

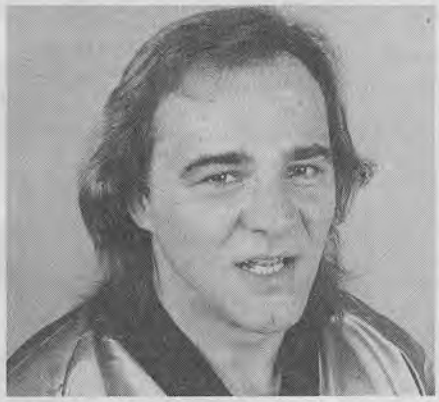
"I wrestle not for the support of the fans, but for the approval of the most glorious female ever to carry a Gucci bag. Yes, I am talking about Missy! One bat of her beautiful eyes in approval of my actions is worth more than a standing ovation from any sold-out arena in the country. With Missy and the rest of the 'First Family' behind me, there's nothing I can't accomplish."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK
"We don't care one way or the other! Does a starving lion look and see what the birds are saying just before he rips into a fat, juicy gazelle? No! If the fans want to cheer us, fine. If they don't want to cheer us, then that's fine, too! This is a free country, and everyone's entitled to their opinion. What's important is that Animal and I get a chance to destroy our opponents."

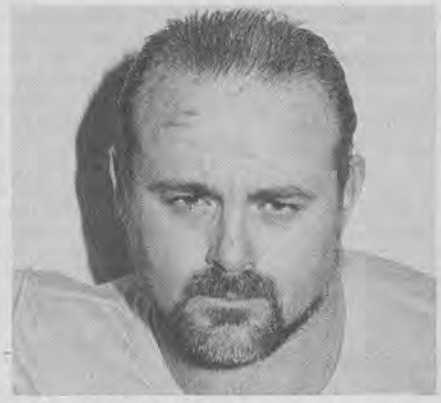
ARN ANDERSON
"Well, all the fans are supposed to be just wild about The Rock 'n' Roll Express, but I didn't see any of them try to stop me and and Tully from taking the title belts. Those guys should wake up and realize the fans can only do so much—better to have a Horseman behind me than the fans. I've never been knocked off my feet by a chorus of boos or been smashed open by catcalls."

RIC FLAIR
"The styler and profiler, daddy, marches to his own drummer. Sometimes some of the fans move to my beat, and sometimes they want to *see* me get beat. I don't care what the fans do as long as they keep buying the tickets that pay my salary. Cheers are like an addiction—if you find yourself needing them, then you'll be sunk without them if the fans decide they don't like you anymore."



LARRY ZBYSZKO
"I pay the fans no heed at all. Since I've come to the NWA, I've found that the fans here are as ignorant, ill-advised, and socially backward as they are everywhere else. Every federation is different in regards to level of competition, rules, and facilities. But if there's one thing I can count on, it's that the fans will be equally stupid in *every* area!"

KERRY VON ERICH
"You bet they do! When I beat Ric Flair for the NWA title right here in Texas Stadium, the fans' support gave me incredible strength. And as I'm making my comeback to the ring now, those fans are back again, supporting me and helping me along every step of the way. Yes, the fans make a difference—they make all the difference in the world."



KEVIN SULLIVAN
"It has been my karma to be both cheered and booed by the fans throughout my career. I regard it as a natural response for other sentient beings superimposing their earthly values on my endeavors to acquire transcendent wisdom, self-knowledge, and wrestling excellence through combat and interaction with the other powerful beings who impose their wills upon this sport."

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December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

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February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

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November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

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May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

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July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

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THE WRESTLER

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

ON HALLOWEEN EVE, a Paul E. Dangerously trick assured that the night would be no treat for recently crowned AWA World tag team champs Jerry Lawler and "Superstar" Bill Dundee.

A four-way donnybrook was raging in the Whitewater, Wisconsin, arena between Lawler and Dundee and the "Original" Midnight Express, and it seemed as if the Express' much-ballyhooed comeback was on the verge of being derailed. Lawler was punishing Randy Rose in the corner, while Dundee, the legal man in the ring, had just covered a stunned Dennis Condrey for what looked like a sure pin.

But Dangerously managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. From his ringside vantage point, the telephone-toting young manager spat on Lawler. "The King," who has suffered many injuries at the hands of Dangerously, became livid at this insult. He ran out of the ring and began pounding his young nemesis. Referee Gary DeRusha rushed outside the ring in an effort to separate the two men.

In a move that was as resourceful as it was repulsive, Dangerously managed to pass his ever-present cellular telephone to Rose without DeRusha noticing.

"Ravishing" Randy rose from the corner, cold-cocked Dundee, and rolled Condrey on top of him just as DeRusha returned to the ring. A quick three-count and the "Original" Midnight Express were the new AWA World tag team champions.

Though a tainted victory, it easily won the Midnights the honor of Wrestlers of the Month. Rarely has one match signified so much, both in and out of the ring. It signaled a marked increase in the quality of tag team competition in the AWA, which just a few months ago seemed trapped in an irreversible decline.

On a more personal level, it gave Dangerously the revenge he has been so desperately seeking against Lawler and Dundee since the two men broke his leg in the wild scaffold match that concluded their heated feud in Memphis earlier this year. At that time, Dangerously managed—until he was unexpectedly abandoned by—Austin Idol and Tommy Rich.

But not only did the "Original" Midnights beat Lawler and Dundee, they also beat the odds and the skeptics who dismissed them as just a pair of retreads who could not compare to Jim Cornette's more famous duo of "Sweet" Stan Lane and "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton, who share the same name.

The victory is bound to add credibility to Rose and Condrey's claim that they are the "Original" Midnight Express and deserve the sole right to use the name that had been made more famous in recent years by Condrey and Eaton.

For the "Original" Midnights, and especially Condrey (who was fired by Cornette in favor of Lane), it was as much a victory over Cornette as it was over Lawler and Dundee. And though the "New" and "Original" Midnights may never meet in the squared circle, the originals now join their successors as holders of major titles.

It was a long, hard road back for Condrey and Rose, each of whose careers seemed to be in the 11th hour. Condrey, devastated when Cornette dumped him, was drifting along with little direction when he was approached by Dangerously; Rose had been spinning his wheels in the Deep South area. Dangerously had the vision to realize that he could harness both mens' anger at recent circumstances and remold them into a team that would, eventually, rise to the top of the AWA.

Wrestling observers were skeptical at first. This was 1987, not 1981, they pointed out, which was when Condrey and Rose first adopted the famous name.

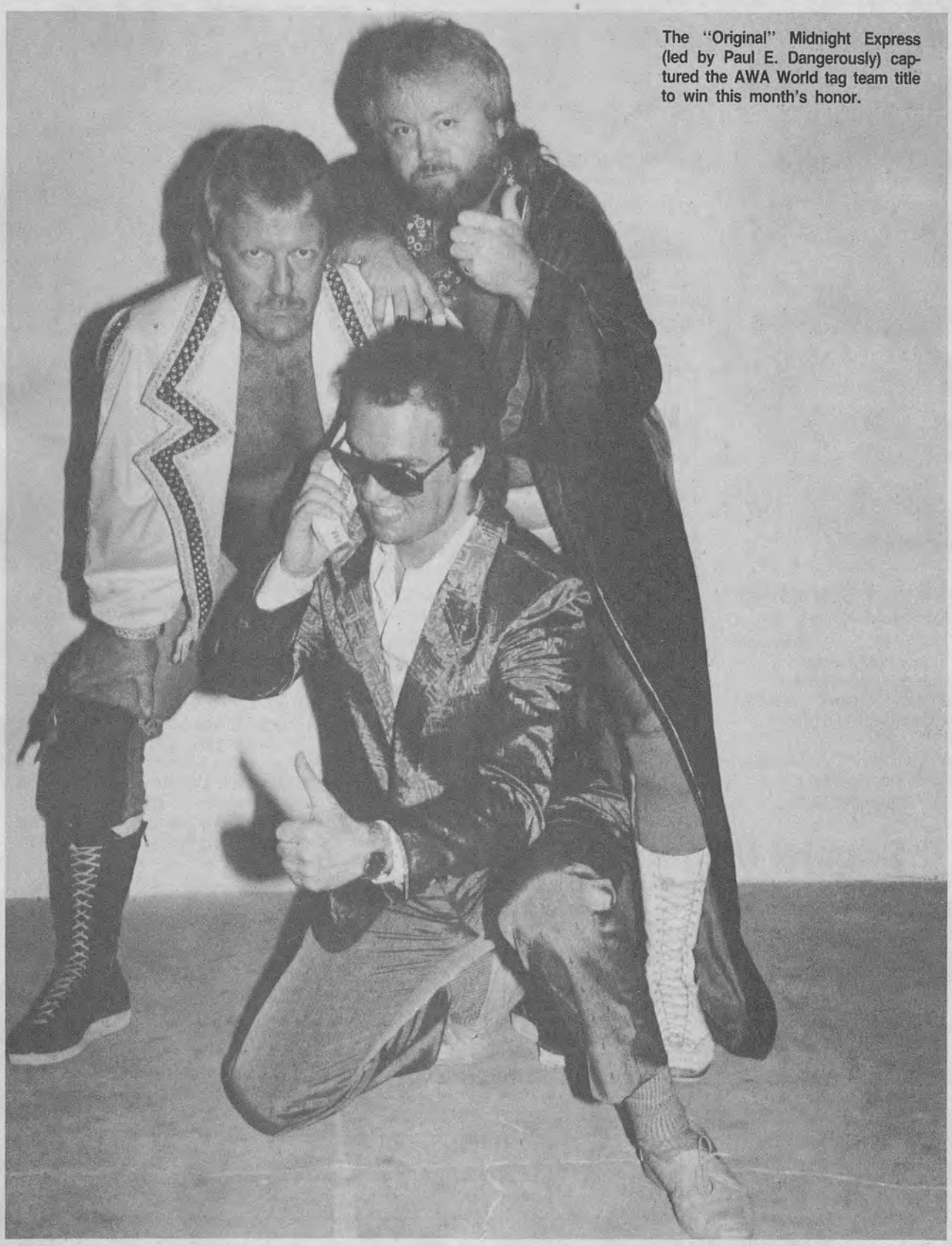
But Condrey, Rose, and Dangerously soon silenced the critics. Condrey and Rose began wrestling like men given a new lease on life, men who were determined to make the most of their second chance. Long hours in training coupled with some initial victories, and the "Original" Midnights began not only to sound like, but to walk and look like, the real thing again.

The long separation didn't have any effect on their teamwork. They quickly returned to their exciting style of frequent tags and decisive double-teaming as Dangerously pitted them against increasingly tougher opponents.

And by his very presence at ringside, Dangerously added another potent dimension. While his interfering tactics were hardly admirable, they were successful. He deserves credit for his imagination and vision, if not his ethics.

That the victory came against Lawler and Dundee could only make it sweeter for Dangerously. He began to drool as soon as his two sworn enemies won the belts from Dr. D and Hector Guerrero on October 19. He was determined to have his revenge; by the time the showdown finally came, his Midnight Express were ready, willing, and able.

But the lion's share of credit must go to Condrey and Rose. Against the skepticism (and at times ridicule) of the entire wrestling world, they worked hard to prove that even in the always-changing world of professional wrestling, you *can* turn the clock back to better days. And that is why the *Sports Review Wrestling* staff voted them "Wrestlers of the Month." □



The "Original" Midnight Express (led by Paul E. Dangerously) captured the AWA World tag team title to win this month's honor.

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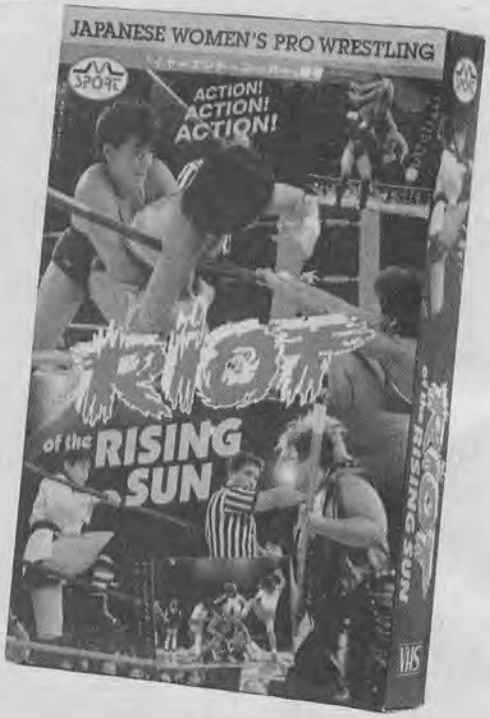

Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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·S·P·E·C·I·A·L F·E·A·T·U·R·E·

YOUR WRESTLING CALENDAR AND DATEBOOK FOR ·1·9·8·8·

HERE IT IS, the item no wrestling fan can do without: your special bonus wrestling calendar and datebook for 1988. You'll want to save this one because it will prove invaluable in the months to come.

This month-by-month calendar is specially designed to provide you with all the space you'll need to remember important birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions, and appointments. You can also write in the major events in wrestling in 1988 as they happen—title changes, important matches, special cards, wrestlers' birthdays, and so forth. At the end of the year, you'll have a complete history of the sport for the entire year!

You can even use the datebook to keep a record of the "on sale" dates of future issues of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Inside Wrestling, The Wrestler, Wrestling 88, Sports Review Wrestling, Wrestling Superstars,* and many of our other publications. The "on sale" date for the next month's issues can be found on the contents page of each magazine. That way, you'll be the first on your block to pick up the latest issue of your favorite publications.

As a special bonus this year, each month on the calendar lists four important dates in the history of professional wrestling. The 48 highlighted events throughout the year provide you with a rare historical perspective available only in the pages of this magazine. They are unforgettable events.

So carefully unbend the staples of this magazine and remove the pages—and keep your 1988 calendar and datebook in a handy place on your desk, in your briefcase, or in your schoolbooks. You'll quickly discover that it will be useful the whole year round!

19 JANUARY 88

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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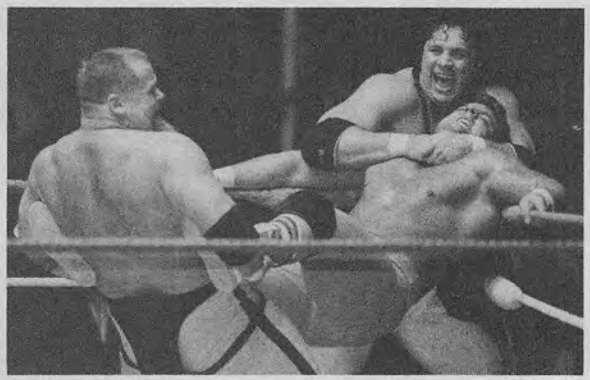

January 26, 1987

January 1: Angelo Mosca makes his professional wrestling debut in Calgary, Alberta, and defeats Mighty Ursus (1968).
January 18: Scott Hall and Curt Hennig win the AWA World tag team belts from Jim Garvin and Steve Regal in Albuquerque, New Mexico (1986).
January 23: Hulk Hogan captures the WWF World title from The Iron Sheik in New York's Madison Square Garden in 5:40 (1984).
January 26: The Hart Foundation wins the WWF tag team title from The British Bulldogs in Tampa, Florida. Because of his biased officiating, referee Danny Davis is fired (1987).

19 FEBRUARY 88

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February 18, 1985

February 3: Kerry Von Erich is born in Buffalo, New York, while his father is on a nationwide wrestling tour (1960).
February 8: Randy Savage takes advantage of Tito Santana's bad knee to win the WWF Intercontinental title in Boston (1986).
February 11: Dory Funk Jr. captures the NWA World title from Gene Kiniski with a figure-four leglock at the Fort Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Florida (1969).
February 18: Hulk Hogan meets Roddy Piper in "The War To Settle The Score" at Madison Square Garden. The match, televised on MTV, is marred by the outside interference of celebrities Mr. T and Cyndi Lauper. Hogan wins by disqualification (1985).

19 MARCH 88

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March 16, 1984

March 11: Bronko Nagurski defeats Ray Steele in Minneapolis for the NWA World heavyweight title (1941).
March 16: The Midnight Express defeats Mr. Wrestling II and Magnum T.A. for the Mid-South tag team belts after Wrestling II deserts Magnum (1984).
March 29: Before more than 93,000 fans in the Pontiac Silverdome, Rick Steamboat captures the Intercontinental title from Randy Savage at WrestleMania III. On the same card, Hulk Hogan pins his former friend Andre the Giant at the 12:01 mark (1987).
March 31: The team of Hulk Hogan and Mr. T defeats Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper in WrestleMania I at Madison Square Garden when Hogan pins Orndorff (1985).

19 APRIL 88

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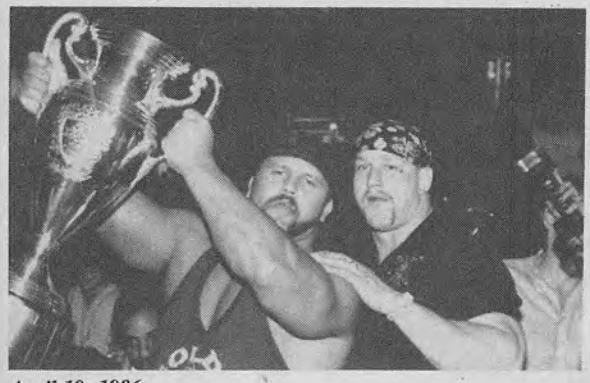

April 19, 1986

April 7: The British Bulldogs defeat Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake for the WWF tag team belts in the Rosemont Horizon leg of WrestleMania II (1986).

April 19: The Road Warriors win the first-ever $1 million Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament at The Superdome in New Orleans. Hawk and Animal defeat Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin in the finals (1986).

April 30: Superstar Billy Graham ends Bruno Sammartino's second WWF heavyweight title reign in the Baltimore Civic Center (1977).

April 30: Greg Valentine mutilates Roddy Piper's left ear in a U.S. heavyweight title match in Greensboro, North Carolina. The match was stopped by NWA official Sandy Scott, and Piper's belt was awarded to Valentine (1983).

19 MAY 88

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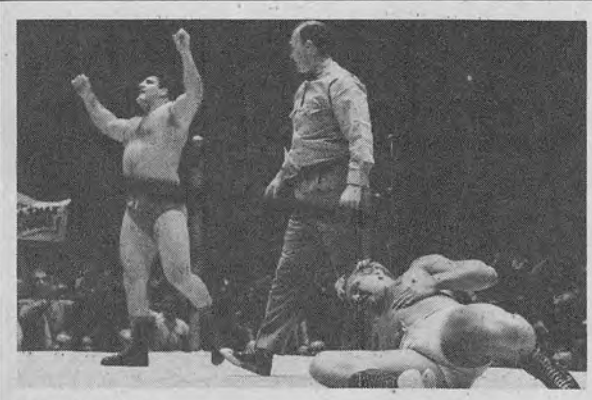

May 17, 1963

May 6: Kerry Von Erich captures the NWA World heavyweight title from Ric Flair in front of 43,517 fans in Texas Stadium in 25:42 (1984).

May 17: Bruno Sammartino wins his first WWF heavyweight title by forcing Buddy Rogers to submit in only 48 seconds following several dropkicks, a bearhug, and a backbreaker (1963).

May 29: The NWA's "Night Of Champions," the first card of NWA-sanctioned wrestling in the New York area in 20 years, is held in New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena (1984).

May 30: Terry Gordy defeats Hacksaw Duggan in the final round of a tournament in Houston to win the first UWF championship; Mid-South wrestling had changed its name to the UWF weeks earlier (1986).

19 JUNE 88

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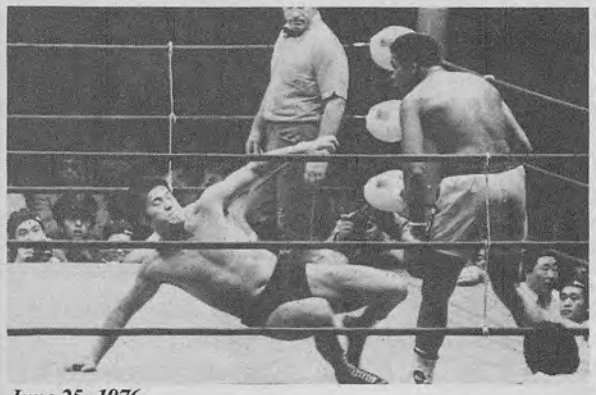

June 25, 1976

June 10: Harley Race eclipses Lou Thesz' record of six NWA World titles by defeating Ric Flair in a thrilling best-of-three-falls match in St. Louis. Race pinned Flair at 6:17 of the third fall (1983).

June 19: Antonio Inoki defeats Dick Murdoch in the final round of a tournament in Tokyo to win the IWGP championship (1986).

June 25: Antonio Inoki and heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali battle to a draw for the "World Martial Arts championship" in Tokyo. The bout lasts 15 rounds, most of which see Inoki on his back kicking at Ali's legs (1976).

June 29: Stan Hansen fails to appear for a scheduled AWA World title defense against Nick Bockwinkel in Denver and is stripped of the belt by federation officials (1986).

19 JULY 88

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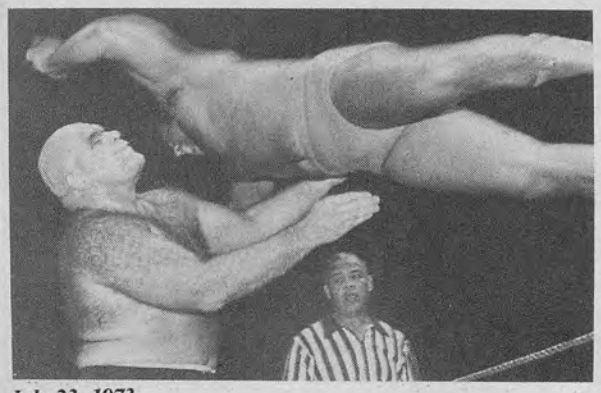

July 23, 1973

July 2: The Honky Tonk Man shocks the wrestling world by beating Rick Steamboat for the Intercontinental title in Buffalo, New York (1987).

July 4: WWF World champion Bob Backlund takes on NWA World champion Ric Flair in a title vs. title match at The Omni in Atlanta. Both men were counted out of the ring after 20 minutes (1982).

July 18: Verne Gagne captures an unprecedented ninth AWA World heavyweight title by defeating Nick Bockwinkel in Chicago (1980).

July 23: Boxing great Joe Louis serves as special referee for a Texas death match between WWF champion Pedro Morales and George "The Animal" Steele; Morales was the winner (1973).

19 AUGUST 88

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August 28, 1986

August 9: The team of Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales defeat The Samoans for the WWF tag team title in New York's Shea Stadium; they had to forfeit the belts because Backlund also held the WWF heavyweight title at the time and couldn't defend both belts (1980).

August 9: Just two weeks after losing the title, Ric Flair wins his fourth NWA World championship by pinning Dusty Rhodes in St. Louis (1986).

August 11: Current WWF heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan is born (1953).

August 28: A then-record 70,000 fans pack Exhibition Stadium in Toronto to see Hulk Hogan battle Paul Orndorff. The estimated gate receipts of $1.2 million (Canadian) is also a record (1986).

19 SEPTEMBER 88

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September 24, 1984

September 3: Gino Hernandez defeats Mike Von Erich for the World Class title. Von Erich suffers a shoulder injury in the match, but later helps brothers Kerry and Kevin defeat The Freebirds for the six-man title (1984).

September 17: Ric Flair captures his first NWA World heavyweight title by defeating Dusty Rhodes in Kansas City, Missouri (1981).

September 24: Greg "The Hammer" Valentine captures the WWF Intercontinental title from Tito Santana in London, Ontario (1984).

September 28: U.S. champion Nikita Koloff unifies the U.S. and National titles by defeating National champion Wahoo McDaniel in Atlanta (1986).

19 OCTOBER 88

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October 14, 1986

October 6: Wahoo McDaniel defeats Manny Fernandez in the final round of a tournament to fill the long-vacant U.S. heavyweight championship (1984).

October 12: Kevin Von Erich defeats Black Bart in Dallas to win the World Class heavyweight title (1986).

October 14: The wrestling world is stunned as Magnum T.A. is severely injured in a serious automobile accident in Charlotte, North Carolina. Doctors say Magnum might never walk again, but months later T.A. is back on his feet (1986).

October 24: Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel defeat Crusher and Billy Robinson in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for the AWA World tag team title (1974).

19 NOVEMBER 88

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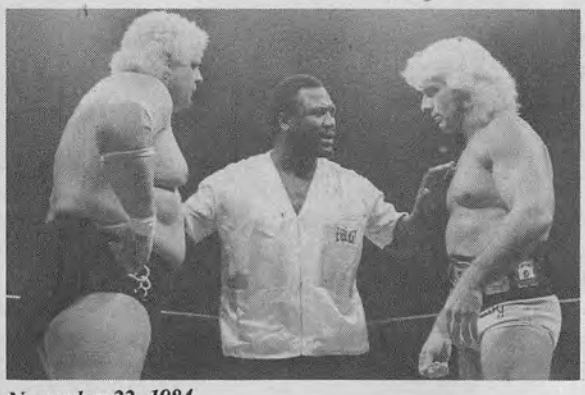

November 22, 1984

November 8: With the help of interference by Bobby Duncum, Nick Bockwinkel wins his first AWA World title by defeating Verne Gagne in St. Paul, Minnesota (1975).

November 16: Crusher Blackwell defeats Harley Race for the Missouri State title in St. Louis (1984).

November 22: Ric Flair wins $1 million and retains his NWA World title in Greensboro, North Carolina, when special referee Joe Frazier stops the match because Dusty Rhodes is bleeding too heavily (1984).

November 24: The first Starrcade supercard is held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Ric Flair regains the NWA World title from Harley Race in the main event and Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood recapture the World tag belts from Jack and Jerry Brisco (1983).

19 DECEMBER 88

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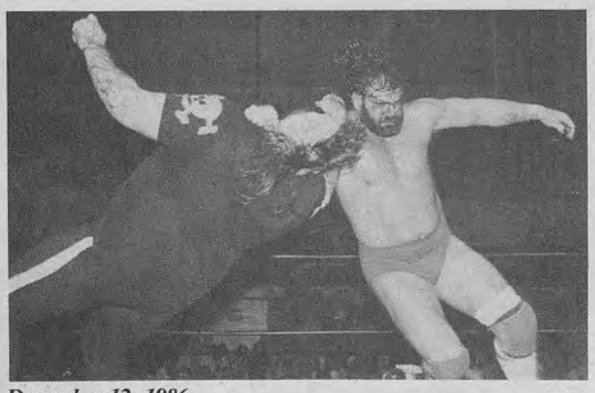


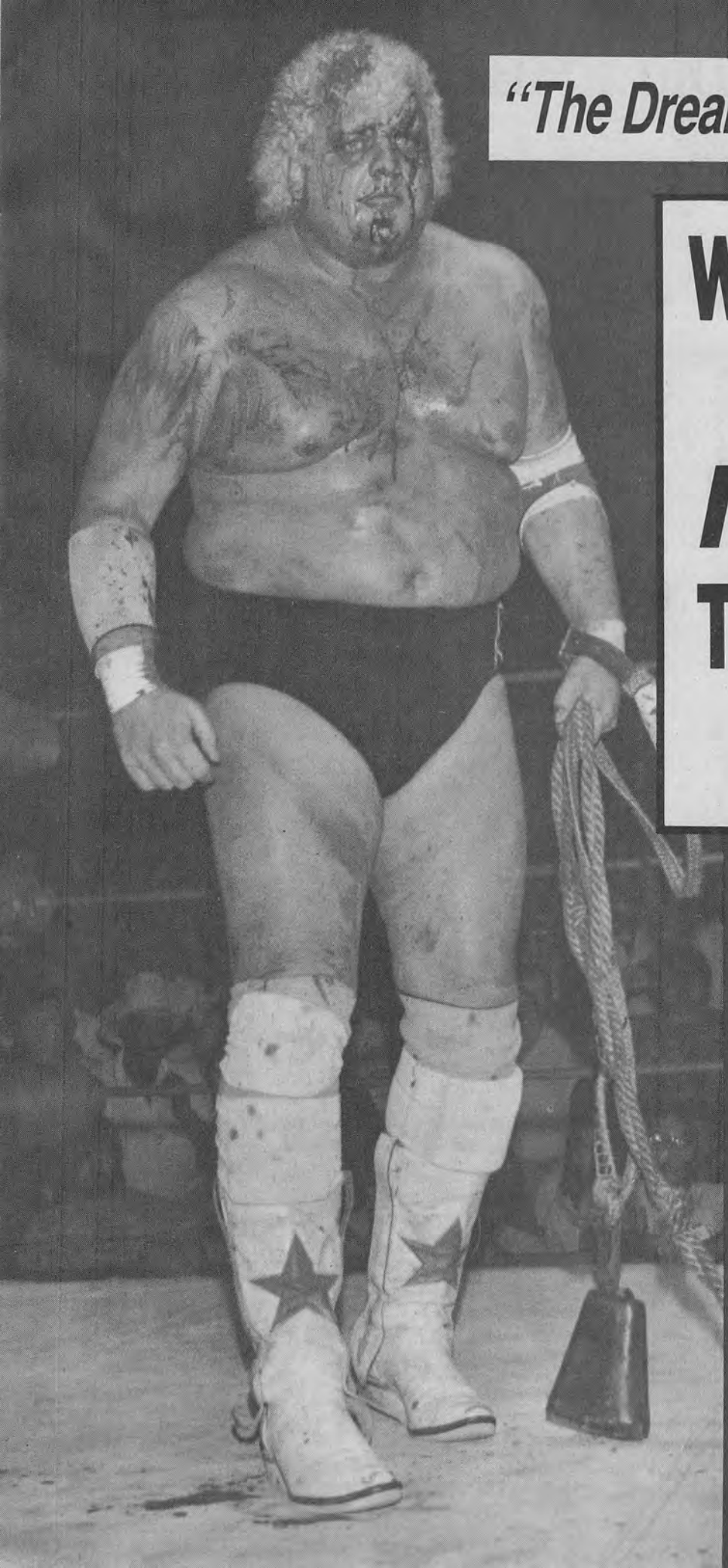
December 12, 1986

December 12: Steve "Dr. Death" Williams defeats UWF champion One Man Gang to win the $50,000 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*/UWF Challenge Cup tournament in Houston; time of the match: 21:43 (1986).

December 14: Verne Gagne captures the sixth of an eventual nine AWA World titles when he defeats Crusher in Minneapolis, Minnesota (1963).

December 26: The Iron Sheik ends Bob Backlund's WWF title reign after five years and 10 months when he captures the belt in New York's Madison Square Garden (1983).

December 29: Lou Thesz defeats Everett Marshall in St. Louis to win his first of six NWA World championships (1937).



"The Dream" Needs A Rest:

WHY DUSTY RHODES *MUST* TAKE 1988 OFF!

THE SCENE IN the dressing room was all too familiar to Dusty Rhodes, and even to those reporters who regularly cover "The Dream."

Rhodes was attempting to give a postmatch interview after a grueling bout against "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert at the New Orleans Superdome. Between the pain of several old and newly inflicted scars and bruises, he struggled to make his points. He twisted his face into an expression that wavered between a smile and grimace. But happiness won out over pain, for Dusty was feeling exceptionally pleased with himself this night.

After his own match, Rhodes had helped Nikita Koloff regain the NWA TV belt that UWF TV champion Terry Taylor had literally stolen scant weeks before. Taylor had brought the strap out to ringside when he sneak-attacked Koloff, but the strategy backfired when Rhodes' sudden appearance distracted Taylor to the point where Nikita could

Blood, blood, and more blood is the rule when Dusty Rhodes wrestles Horsemen Arn Anderson (left), Tully Blanchard (below), and Lex Luger (bottom). "The Dream's" corpuscle count would improve if he left the sport for a year.

Should Dusty Rhodes lose his steel cage match with U.S. champion Lex Luger at Starrcade '87, he will be forced to leave wrestling for 90 days. But win or lose, many observers feel that an even longer vacation would be the best thing for "The Dream"!

hit him with the Russian sickle, allowing Nikita to regain possession of the belt.

"It was worth it just to see the look on that *ar-ro-gant* puppy's face when I showed up in the ring," Dusty said, referring to Taylor. "Then Nikita Koloff, the man with the power, sickled him for good."

Not just Koloff, but also referee Tommy Young, "Weaverhold" master Johnny Weaver, and a host of other wrestlers have in the last few months been saved from sneak-attacks and illegal double-teaming by Dusty's timely presence. It seems that whenever there's a wrong to be righted or an opportunity to do good, "The American Dream" can be found on the front lines.

But the toll on Dusty's body has been incredible. Dusty's heavy schedule leaves no time to ever fully recover from his myriad injuries—let alone undertake the kind of heavy physical training a man of his age needs to stay in shape.

Instead, Dusty has been relying on his ring savvy to get by. Adding the "Weaverlock" to his repertoire was a brilliant move. He has also benefited from the strong support of Koloff and Kevin Sullivan, two men he has helped convert from the respective evils of communism and satanism.

But with his Starrcade steel cage title match against U.S. champion Lex Luger fast approaching, Dusty that night faced some tough questions. Knowing that Rhodes would do just about anything to gain the one major title that has eluded him, J.J. Dillon inserted the clause that should Dusty lose, he would have to retire from wrestling for 90 days.

And all indications are that Luger may have just the tools to send Dusty on a long vacation. "The Complete Package" gains in strength and wres-

(Continued on page 48)

STRIKE FORCE

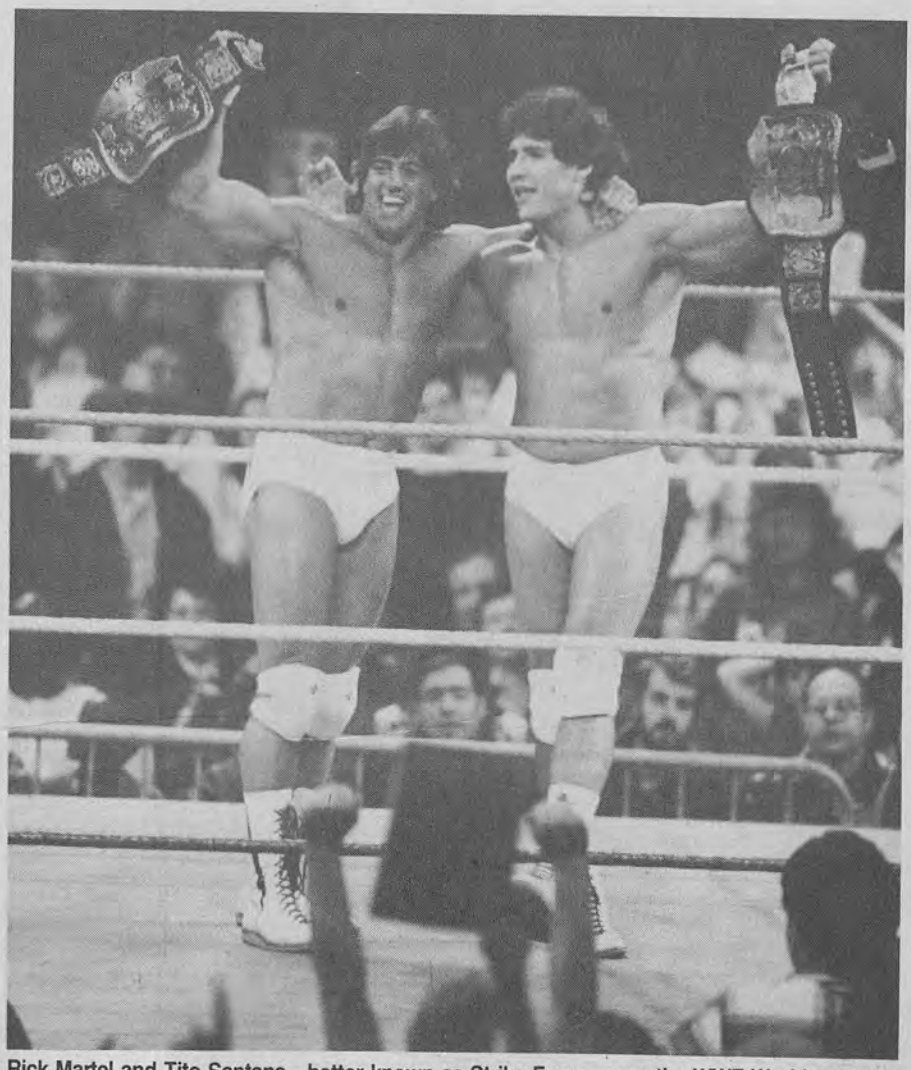
HOW LONG CAN THEY HOLD THE WWF TAG TEAM BELTS?

IT TOOK LONGER than anticipated, but the wait was well worth it. As Rick Martel's powerful Boston crab twisted Jim Neidhart into submission, it did more than earn Martel and his Strike Force partner Tito Santana the WWF World tag team championship.

Martel's method of victory erased the nightmare that has plagued him for three years. It was late December 1985 when Martel, suffering from back injuries, submitted his AWA World championship to Stan Hansen's vicious Brazos Valley backbreaker—in effect, a Boston crab.

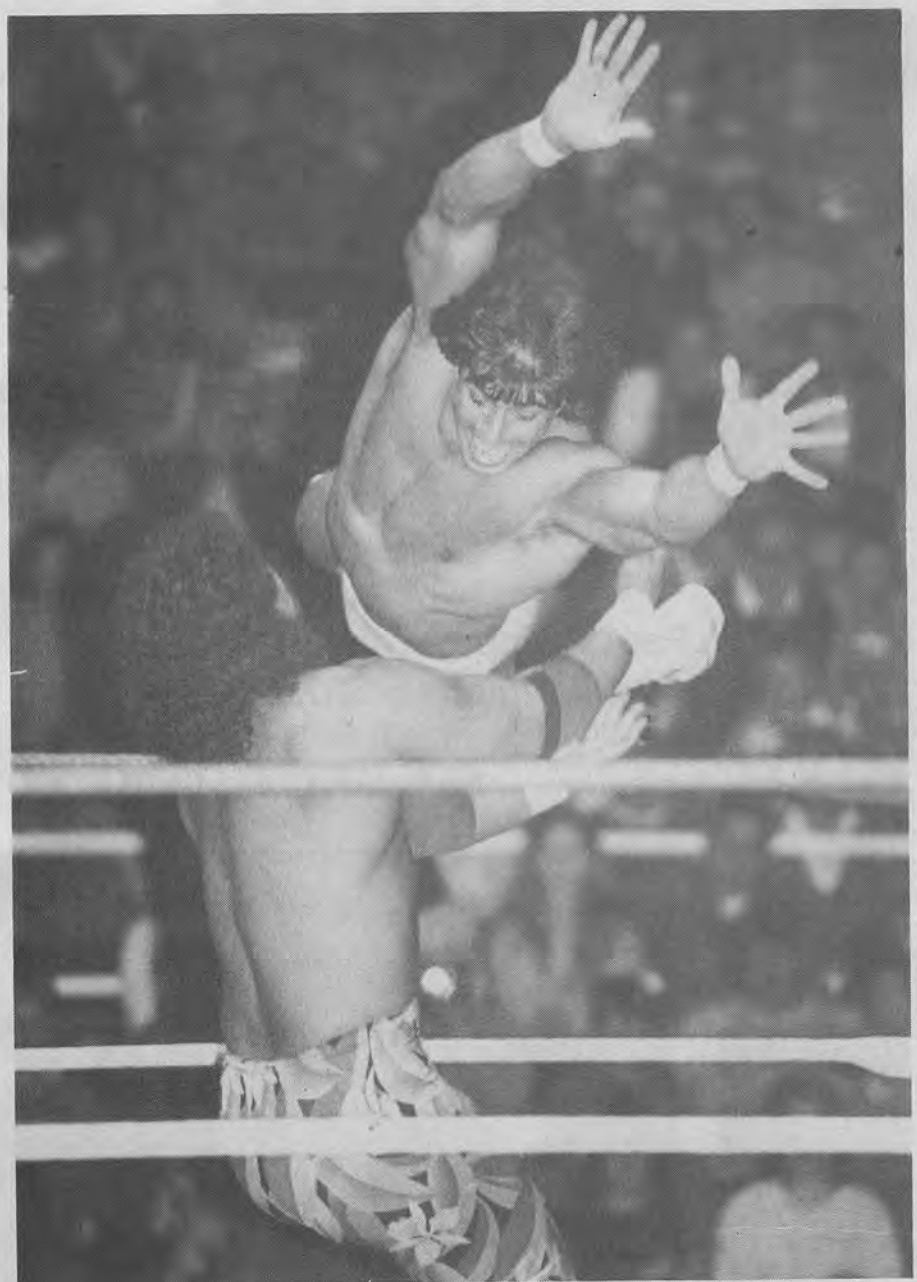
"Rick claims to have gotten over that loss," says a close friend, "but in truth he never did. Giving up is not Rick's style. Although no one knew how much pain he was in *before* the match with Hansen, he would make no excuses. But it really affected his style. Shook his confidence. He hasn't really been the same in the WWF."

Try convincing Jim Neidhart. In an inspired showing, Martel and Santana dragged The Hart Foundation in, around, and out of the ring. Strike Force struck with precise, deliberate movements and clearly out-



Rick Martel and Tito Santana—better known as Strike Force—won the WWF World tag team title when Martel forced Jim Neidhart to submit with a Boston crab.

The fans are virtually unanimous in their support: Strike Force, starring Rick Martel and Tito Santana, is the most popular team in the WWF. And as the wrestling world looks ahead to 1988, it becomes clear that Strike Force will remain WWF tag team champions for some time to come



Martel executes a flying bodypress on Tama (left). Santana ducks Haku's punch and delivers one of his own (above). The Islanders, not The Hart Foundation, could be Strike Force's most significant challengers throughout 1988. The two teams match up extremely well.

classed the WWF champions.

The end came when Neidhart whipped Martel into the corner and Martel jumped up to the second rope and executed a perfect flying bodypress against Neidhart. Martel went for the pin and hooked the leg, but Brett Hart interfered, kicking Martel in the back and breaking up the pin attempt. When Brett scrambled out of the ring, Santana scrambled in, and Strike Force executed a double-bodyslam against Neidhart.

Seconds later, Martel tied Neidhart into a Boston crab so well-executed that Neidhart was in the hold less than three seconds—less than the length of a pinfall—before submitting to the referee.

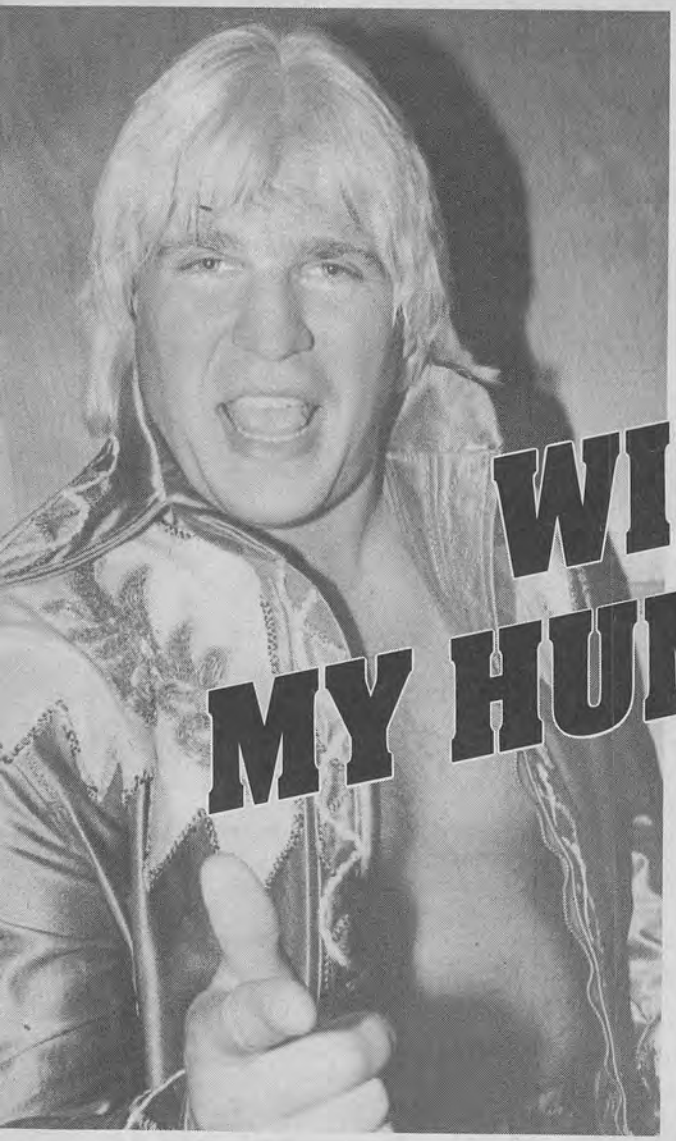
"Everyone at ringside was curious to see how Martel would end it," said one reporter. "Neidhart was spent. He was an easy pin. But those of us who've followed Martel over the years knew he would go for the submission hold."

Pure joy—the look of a man who'd conquered his demons—exploded across Martel's face after Neidhart conceded. This was the popular Canadian's first title since losing his AWA belt, and it silenced those critics who claimed he would never again win the big one.

The victory meant just as much for Santana who, since dropping the Intercontinental title to Randy Savage in February 1986, had become something of a forgotten commodity around the WWF. Strike Force's redemption has the WWF's assortment of rulebreaking teams doing a slow drool. With a scientific team now possessing the belts, the doors were

(Continued on page 50)

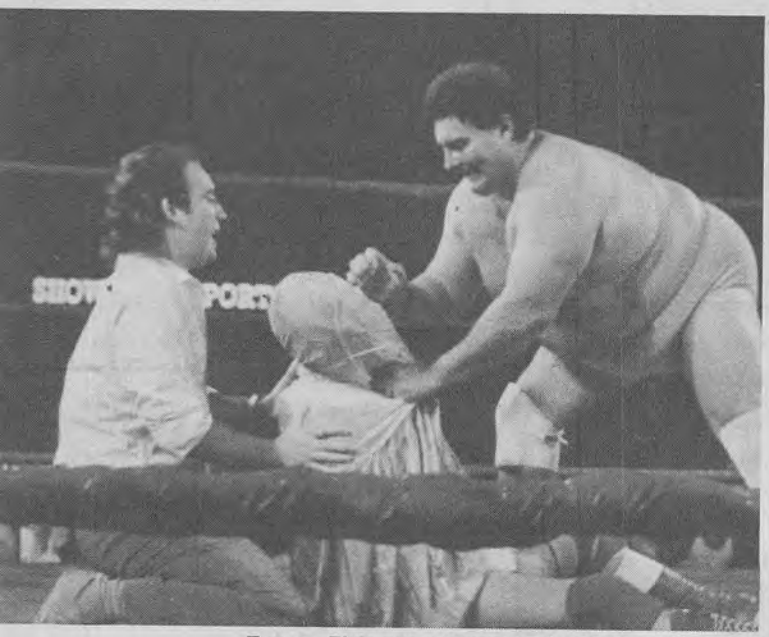
TOMMY RICH:

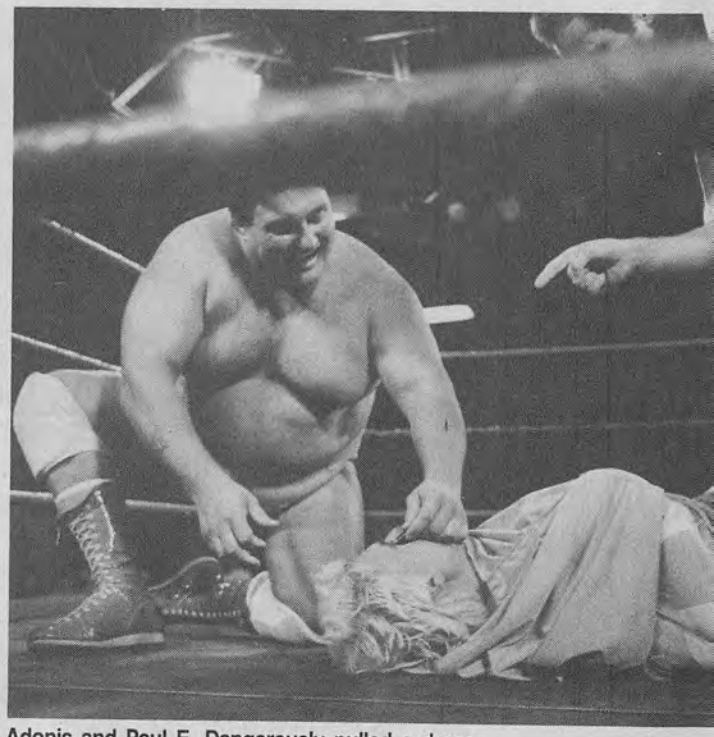


"ADRIAN ADONIS WILL PAY FOR MY HUMILIATION!"

Photos by Bruce Krietzman

Ever since he received a notorious "dressing down" at the hands of Adrian Adonis and Paul E. Dangerously, Tommy Rich has been obsessed with avenging this insult to his manhood— no matter what the cost!





Tommy Rich was never more insulted as when Adrian Adonis and Paul E. Dangerously pulled a dress over his head and smeared his face with lipstick while he was unconscious (above left and right).

ADRIAN ADONIS AND Paul E. Dangerously didn't just injure Tommy Rich in Las Vegas, they humiliated him. Rich had Tom Stone trapped in the figure-four leglock when the imposing shadow of Adrian Adonis materialized at ringside, climbed to the third rope, and sent a knee crashing into Rich's chest. A few more elbowsmashes for good measure, and the former NWA champion was rendered unconscious.

Adonis gets the better of Rich with a sleeper (left), an elbowsmash (above left), and a powerslam (above right). Dangerously instigated this feud after Rich, acknowledging a past mistake, refused to be managed by him again. Rich deserted Dangerously in Memphis after they'd both been humiliated by Jerry Lawler.

Not content with injuring the man, Adonis and Dangerously sought to embarrass him totally. Out of a satchel came a satiny pink dress, which they draped over Rich's prostrate form. Pink is Adonis' favorite color, but it was safe to say that it looked terrible on Rich. They followed with rouge and lipstick, with Adonis running the hard, bright red tube all over "Wildfire's" face. Well pleased with their efforts, the two left Rich to his humiliation.

When Rich came to and dragged himself to his feet, he was distraught. When he saw what he looked like, embarrassment and rage replaced the pain so recently inflicted.

Thus began one the hottest feuds in wrestling, a feud that currently is raging at arenas throughout the country. All three men involved reveal a hatred that is unbelievably deep-seeded.

Adonis and Dangerously are as astute as they are evil. By humiliating Rich's manhood, they thought to strike a blow at the very center of his being. Perhaps the most fragile part of a pro wrestler is his ego, for his body is conditioned to accept punishment that would land a normal man in a hospital.

Most men in Rich's position would have not recovered from such a public shaming. But Rich is a rare breed. If the evil twosome thought that such a stratagem would run Rich out of the AWA, then they were mistaken, as a talk with Tommy Rich reveals:

"I said before that Adrian Adonis was a cancer, and that I was going to cut him out of the AWA," Rich stated. "But now there's only one thought in my mind all my waking hours, and that's how I can punish Adonis and Dangerously. My heart is in this one, even more than it was when I got into those feuds against Buzz Sawyer and Jerry Lawler."

Fans who remember those feuds might be justifiably worried about Adonis and Dangerously. But the duo does not seen too concerned:

"What, me worry?" was Dangerously's response when reached on his ever-present cellular phone. "I'm not losing any sleep, and I can assure you that it isn't bothering Adrian's appetite at

(Continued on page 65)

Photos by Bruce Krietzman

INTERVIEW

MISSY HYATT

IMPARTIAL, INCISIVE wrestling commentator or shameless cheerleader for boyfriend Eddie Gilbert's First Family?

The jury is still out on ex-valet Missy Hyatt, who continues to spark controversy in her role as commentator on UWF TV broadcasts. Some credit her with bringing a fresh and unique viewpoint to the weekly UWF shows, while others accuse her of being hopelessly biased in favor of her personal favorites.

The mail at ***Sports Review Wrestling*** *has been almost evenly divided between those who feel that Missy is a classy observer and those who feel she is a brassy brat, and we sought the opportunity to give her the opportunity to respond to some of the fans' comments.*

The chance came on the day before the first-ever NWA-UWF show in Long Island's Nassau Coliseum when Missy called our office and said she'd have an hour to spare the next morning. Assistant Editor Gian Trotta got the plum assignment and made a mad dash to Missy's room at a luxurious Manhattan hotel. She was staying in a penthouse suite, and was anxiously looking forward to shopping in the exclusive boutiques of New York's Fifth Avenue that were sprucing up for the big Thanksgiving Day parade.

Though not involved in any feuds, Missy Hyatt continues to create quite a stir as an announcer for the UWF. Her commentating has at times been biased toward Eddie Gilbert's First Family. No wonder; she's Gilbert's fiancee.

Trotta recounted the following impressions: "In contrast to her last visit to New York (an ill-fated attempt to host a WWF interview segment), Missy seemed relaxed and poised. Despite the relatively early hour, she was clad in a skintight white leather cocktail dress, relaxing as a hotel beautician buffed her nails to an incredible red sheen. Not surprisingly, Missy managed to command my complete interest either because of, or in spite of, her great beauty. Missy is also very articulate—she's underrated in that respect—and I had to admit she made some good points during the hour we spent together."

Q: Welcome back to New York, Missy. Any impressions on being back in The Big Apple?

A: Well, it's so much better this time around. Last time, when I came here to work for the WWF, I was so upset by what they wanted me to do and I missed Eddie so much that I didn't even take the time to do any shopping! But now everything is different. I just can't believe how beautiful the shops are here! That alone makes me glad that the UWF is holding cards in New York. It just seems so right that the best wrestlers in the world should be back in the greatest city in the world. Wasn't it really nice of Eddie, Terry Taylor, and Rick Steiner to come here?

Q: A lot of fans feel that it was real nice for the *whole* federation to run a live card in the area, and the promoters expect a good crowd tonight at the Nassau Coliseum. Were you surprised by the reaction?

A: That's a real easy question. This city attracts the best in everything, fashion, finance, show business. Now that The First Family is here, they've got the best wrestlers in the world, too. And the best announcing crew.

Q: Can we take that as praise for Magnum T.A., Jim Ross, and Jack Gregory?

A: Well, I guess that they're all right, I mean, they don't embarrass me by forgetting wrestlers' names and stuff like that. And I made them wear ties that matched their shirts, which is another big plus. But none of them can handle the microphone and do an interview like I can.

Q: Well, now that you're on the other side of the mike, does it feel funny to be asking the questions for a change?

A: No, not at all. Remember, I did a lot of interviews when I was a manager, valet, and wrestler, so I know what you're going to want to hear. And because I conduct interviews myself, I know what you're going to ask right now.

Q: Oh, and what is that?

A: You're going to ask about the differences between the two jobs, and if I like announcing and miss managing.

Q: Well, I did plan to ask you something like that. But this is my interview!

In her broadcasting duties with Jim Ross and Jack Gregory (above), Hyatt interviews Barry Windham (below). Although Hyatt's colleagues welcome her insight, they don't always agree with her.

A: Don't worry, don't worry. Remember, this is my day off and I'm out of here as soon as the shops open up . . . but to answer my question, there are good and bad things about both jobs. When I was Eddie's valet, I didn't even have to bother with anyone else and could spend all my time looking out for him and keeping him happy. Now that I'm an announcer, my bosses expect me to talk about *every* wrestler. None of them are as good-looking or as exciting as Eddie, but I just suffer through it. In the meantime, I try to point out to people why someone isn't as good as the other announcers say they are. They usually don't know, because they weren't involved in the mat action as closely as I was. They don't know what it feels like to actually be in the ring, plus they don't catch half the gossip that goes

Hyatt saves a kiss for Gilbert (above) and shows how she can also be kind to babies and puppies (bottom). Hyatt says one of her jobs is to point out things that other announcers ignore, like the reasons why The First Family and The Sheepherders do what they do.

around here. That's where a woman's touch comes in handy!

Q: But I think you could say Magnum T.A. knew a thing or two about ups and downs and ins and outs in the ring.

A: Oh, yeah that's right—he did used to wrestle. I kind of forgot, because it's been so long since he's been in the ring. I mean, he seems like a nice man and all, but I think he's too scared to be a good announcer.

Q: Scared? I think you have the wrong man. What do you mean by that?

A: He's scared of asking some guys the really tough questions, because they're his friends, or they sent him a card in the hospital, or something like that. I mean, he never asks Dusty Rhodes or Barry Windham if they feel guilty for interfering in some of The First Family's matches.

Q: But Missy, when was the last time you complained about Gilbert, Taylor, or Steiner's interference?

A: Well you have to understand a couple of things there. First of all, we're, I mean *they're*, all a family, The First Family of wrestling, and families have to stick together and help each other out. But by the time I get to say something, Magnum, Jack, and Jim have already taken turns tearing the Family apart. So they give me, like, 10 seconds to explain what really happened, and that's barely time to open my mouth. And they call that being fair!

Q: Your own impartiality has been doubted by a number of fans and observers. How would you respond to those charges?

A: Well, let's not forget that Eddie is my fiance and has made me First Lady of The First Family. But I try to forget about that when I'm behind the microphone and do what I was hired to do, what I feel I *have* to do. And that is to give the fans a different point of view, one coming from a glamorous young lady who knows the business inside out and doesn't always swim with the tide. I'm not saying that I'm always right, but let's face it—most wrestling broadcasters feel that they have to root for who the fans like so that they can stay popular themselves. I can stand on my own and look at things a little differently.

Q: For instance?

A: For instance, when Ronnie Garvin beat Ric Flair for the NWA World belt, I was the only one who had a little bit of pity for Ric, while my colleagues were just talking about how

great Garvin was. Flair's beaten Garvin dozens of times in the past, while Garvin's only done it once, and with a lot of luck to boot. Nobody mentioned that except for me. And when The Sheepherders, who really are nice men once you get to know them, won the UWF tag team belts from The Lightning Express, all they could talk about was how it wasn't fair because Johnny Ace interfered. But then none of them had the guts to go over and interview The Sheepherders and get *their* side of the story—because they were scared of them. So, once again, it was Missy to the rescue. I went over, and instead of being attacked, Butch Miller gave me a big kiss and then he and Luke Williams started talking about how great it was to be champions.

Q: But you didn't ask them if Johnny Ace had used the flagpole to help them win the match?

A: What was the point? I mean, they had the belts and nothing I or anyone else would say could change that. I learned early not to ask pointless questions, because it just wastes time.

Q: Speaking of time, a lot of fans have complained that you spend too much time talking about your nails, jewelry, makeup, and clothes, and not enough on what goes on in the ring. Any reaction?

A: Well, one of the reasons I was hired for the show was because I have style, and I figure that I should share some fashion tips with the audience. This way the ladies might pick up a hint or two, while the men will learn what makes a real woman, and, more importantly, what to buy her if they really want to impress her. Speaking of impressive men, Eddie's going to be here in five minutes to take me shopping and buy me anything I want on Fifth Avenue. So you'd better get out of here before he sees you, because he's the jealous type and might get the wrong idea about what we're doing in this room almost alone. It's five to nine, and Gucci's opens in five minutes. I haven't a minute to waste!

Q: Thanks for your time, Missy. I hope you find what you're looking for. □

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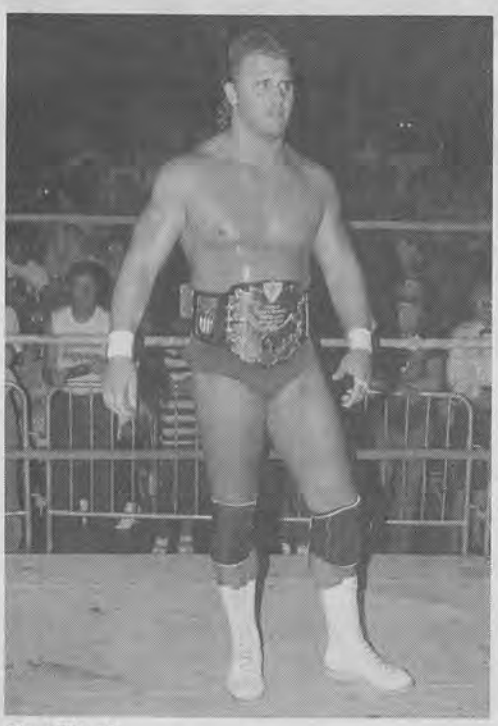

Curt Hennig

TOP10

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   WWF World champion
2. **RONNIE GARVIN**
   231, Montreal, Quebec
   NWA World champion
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   No. 1 contender to NWA World title
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   U.S. heavyweight champion
5. **STEVE WILLIAMS**
   265, Norman, OK
   UWF heavyweight champion
6. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   Western States champion
7. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   NWA TV champion
8. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   No. 1 contender to WWF I-C title
9. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   AWA World champion
10. **AL PEREZ**
    238, Tampa, FL
    World Class heavyweight champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
2. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 484 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
3. **RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
   Combined weight: 489 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
4. **BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
5. **BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
6. **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
7. **THE ISLANDERS**
   Combined weight: 472 pounds
   No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
8. **THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
   Combined weight: 461 pounds
   No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
9. **THE SHEEPHERDERS**
   Combined weight: 542 pounds
   UWF tag team champions
10. **DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
    Combined weight: 461 pounds
    AWA World tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

1. **LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
2. **RIC FLAIR** *243, Minneapolis, MN*
3. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
4. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
5. **BARRY WINDHAM** *236, Sweetwater, TX*
6. **TULLY BLANCHARD** *235, San Antonio, TX*
7. **STING** *270, parts unknown*
8. **MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
9. **BUBBA ROGERS** *348, Louisville, KY*
10. **TERRY TAYLOR** *225, Vero Beach, FL*

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

1. **WAHOO McDANIEL** *260, Midland, TX*
2. **GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
3. **TOMMY RICH** *242, Hendersonville, TN*
4. **JERRY BLACKWELL** *474, Stone Mountain, GA*
5. **JERRY LAWLER** *234, Memphis, TN*
6. **ADRIAN ADONIS** *312, New York, NY*
7. **KEVIN KELLY** *271, Oakland, CA*
8. **J.T. SOUTHERN** *254, Asbury Park, NJ*
9. **D.J. PETERSON** *245, St. Joseph, MO*
10. **JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1. **THE HONKY TONK MAN** *255, Memphis, TN*
2. **RANDY SAVAGE** *245, Sarasota, FL*
3. **ONE MAN GANG** *468, Chicago, IL*
4. **BAM BAM BIGELOW** *368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
5. **TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NB*
6. **KILLER KHAN** *275, Mongolia*
7. **RICK RUDE** *246, Robbinsdale, MN*
8. **PAUL ORNDORFF** *253, Brandon, FL*
9. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
10. **KING KONG BUNDY** *446, Atlantic City, NJ*

UWF

UWF Champion:
STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK

1. **BARRY WINDHAM** *236, Sweetwater, TX*
2. **TERRY TAYLOR** *225, Vero Beach, FL*
3. **BLACK BART** *261, Pampa, TX*
4. **STING** *270, parts unknown*
5. **EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*
6. **BIG BUBBA ROGERS** *348, Louisville, KY*
7. **LARRY ZBYSZKO** *248, Pittsburgh, PA*
8. **RICK STEINER** *248, Detroit, MI*
9. **RON SIMMONS** *260, Perry, GA*
10. **DICK MURDOCH** *270, Amarillo, TX*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended November 11, 1987

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
2. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **STEVE WILLIAMS**
   265, Norman, OK
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
5. **RONNIE GARVIN**
   231, Montreal, Quebec
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
6. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
7. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
8. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
   280, Glens Falls, NY
   Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
9. **KEVIN VON ERICH**
   235, Denton, TX
   Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
10. **JERRY LAWLER**
    234, Memphis, TN
    Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
   255, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
3. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
4. **TULLY BLANCHARD**
   235, San Antonio, TX
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **TERRY TAYLOR**
   225, Vero Beach, FL
   Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
6. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
   248, Pittsburgh, PA
   Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
8. **KING KONG BUNDY**
   446, Atlantic City, NJ
   Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
9. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NB
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
10. **THE IRON SHEIK**
    262, Teheran, Iran
    Last month: unrated

WORLD CHAMP.

U.S. Champion:
LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL

1—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
3—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
5—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
6—**STING**
270, parts unknown
7—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
8—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
9—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL

1—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
2—**TED ARCIDI**
300, Boston, MA
3—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
4—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
5—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
6—**MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
7—**THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
8—**SHAUN SIMPSON**
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
9—**VIC STEAMBOAT**
235, Honolulu, HI
10—**AL MADRIL**
231, Los Angeles, CA

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta

1—**JASON THE TERRIBLE**
265, parts unknown
2—**CPL. KIRCHNER**
240, Ft. Bragg, NC
3—**MAKIAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
4—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
225, Cincinnati, OH
5—**STEVE DiSALVO**
298, Boston, MA
6—**ZODIAC**
225, parts unknown
7—**PHIL LAFLEUR**
245, Montreal, Quebec
8—**BIFF WELLINGTON**
225, Calgary, Alberta
9—**BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
10—**JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique

MID-SOUTHERN

AWA Southern Champion:
BOBBY JAGGERS
275, Dunlap, KS

1—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
3—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
4—**STEVE KEIRN**
238, Tampa, FL
5—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
6—**JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
7—**BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX
8—**CARL FERGIE**
230, Memphis, TN
9—**HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, Mexico
10—**DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX

1—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
2—**DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
3—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
4—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
5—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
6—**STEVE ARMSTRONG**
235, Marietta, GA
7—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
8—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
9—**JONATHAN BOYD**
240, New Zealand
10—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL

WILD WEST

1—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
2—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
3—**BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
4—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
5—**JACK VICTORY**
230, Atlantic City, NJ
6—**JOHN TATUM**
236, Hollywood, CA
7—**BILL IRWIN**
250, Duluth, MN
8—**SOLOMON GRUNDY**
450, Louisville, KY
9—**JEFF RAITZ**
235, Dallas, TX
10—**BOB BRADLEY**
240, Boston, MA

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Goodbye, Florida—hello, Stampede! There's a major change on our ratings pages this month. By now, you may have noticed that the Florida ratings are gone and have been replaced by a top 10 for Stampede Wrestling. This change came about for a very good reason: After nearly 40 years in the business, Championship Wrestling From Florida no longer exists.

Dusty Rhodes

CWF was associated with the National Wrestling Alliance, and its various champions often received shots at the NWA World heavyweight and tag team champions. Little more than 10 years ago, **Dusty Rhodes** was one of the hottest wrestlers in the country, and CWF rode along on his wave of popularity. CWF was the home of legendary announcer **Gordon Solie** and has also been home to such stars as **Eddie Graham, Buddy Colt, Bobby Shane, Bugsy McGraw, Terry Funk, Dory Funk Jr., Jack** and **Jerry Brisco, Barry Windham, Kevin Sullivan**, and **Lex Luger.**

Despite its association with the NWA, CWF operated its own shows in Florida. The NWA World champion would occasionally wrestle the Florida or Southern titlist on cards in Tampa, Daytona Beach, Lakeland, Orlando, and other CWF strongholds, but the shows were generally filled with talent exclusive to the Florida area. In the past year, however, Jim Crockett Promotions took over CWF and began sending more World Championship Wrestling talent down to Florida. Eventually, the difference between WCW and CWF became minute; finally, CWF offices were shut down.

Crockett Promotions will continue to run shows in Florida. **Mike Rotundo** is still the Florida champion; **Steve Keirn** and **Mike Graham**, who recently won the belts from **The Mighty Yankees**, are still the Florida tag team champions. These belts will now be challenged for by *all* NWA wrestlers.

The decision to boost Stampede Wrestling into a permanent ratings spot was rather easy. Operating out of Calgary in the Canadian province of Alberta, Stampede is one of the fastest-growing promotions in the sport. Stampede North American Champion **Owen Hart** is just one several promising young wrestlers competing in the Stampede area. And the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* felt it was time for Canadian representation in our ratings.

"A lot of fans in the United States don't realize how popular wrestling is in Canada," said Senior Editor **Bill Apter**, "but it's probably as popular there as it is here. Remember, they drew 72,000 fans for that show in Toronto last year, and the gates are consistently high in Montreal,Toronto, and western Canada. The WWF has a pretty solid hold on eastern Canada, but Stampede is really big in the Canadian Rockies. Some of the greatest stars in wrestling, such as **The British Bulldogs** and **Brett Hart** got their start in Stampede. **Wayne Farris**, now known as **The Honky Tonk Man**, was wrestling there before he came to the WWF."

There are two other belts recognized by Stampede: the British Commonwealth championship, currently held by **Gama Singh**, and the International tag team title, which is presently vacant (but was most recently held by **Bruce Hart** and **Brian Pillman**). The British Commonwealth champion will receive an automatic number one rating behind the Stampede North American champion. With its emergence in our ratings, you can expect to see a lot more coverage of Stampede in the pages of *Sports Review Wrestling* and its sister publications in the months to come.

It's the wild Wild West! This month, one of the newer federations in the United States takes center stage in our revolving ratings category. The Wild West Wrestling Federation, which operates out Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas, and holds most of its shows at Billy Bob's in Ft. Worth, makes its first appearance in our ratings.

Iceman Parsons

But many of the wrestlers working in Wild West should be familiar to you already. There's no Wild West title (a tournament to crown a Wild West champion is being planned for early 1988), but the top wrestler in the federation, **The Missing Link**, was once in **Dark Journey's** stable in the UWF. In fact, most of the wrestlers in our Wild West ratings have competed in the UWF, including **Iceman Parsons** (who left the UWF shortly after his feud with **Chris Adams**), **Jack Victory, John Tatum, Wild Bill Irwin, Jeff Raitz**, and **Buddy Roberts. The Fabulous Lance** wrestled in the World Class area under the name **Lance Von Erich.**

Certainly, the Wild West has more than its share of exciting wrestlers, and this new kid in town is sure to make an impact on the Texas wrestling scene.

We're ready for the flood! Because there's no doubt that it's coming. We know that fans of areas not getting monthly representation in our ratings are going to ask why Stampede got the nod and not their federation. Our decision will remain firm, but we do want to hear your thoughts on the ratings change. After all, that's what "Ratings Analysis" is all about. Send your comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from page 35)

tling experience every day, while Rhodes seems to grow slower and wearier.

"Don't you think Luger has the upper hand? I mean the man is awesome—let's face reality," one reporter blurted out.

"Hush, there," Dusty replied. "Reality may just be able to destroy 'The Dream,' so why shouldn't 'The Dream' be able to destroy reality?"

The reporter followed up that question with a tougher one. "Wouldn't it be better for you if you lost to Luger?" he asked. "The 90 days might do you good."

Dusty did not grow angry; rather, his face became wishful. For a fleeting moment, it looked like he actually *relished* the thought of a three-month layoff. But the strange combination of determination, devotion to friends, and—yes—egomania that makes Dusty Dusty forced him to dismiss such a possibility.

"I can't even think about losing and be forced out for 90 days," he replied, "There's too much riding on this, much more than just the U.S. title. I'm fighting for the fans, the honor of the NWA itself, and for all the good wrestlers who have put their faith in me."

The majority of editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* believe, however, that Dusty will not be able to serve the sport for long if he continues at his present pace. The load he has willingly assumed has put tremendous physical and mental pressure on him. Ninety days, we feel, wouldn't even be enough recuperation time for a wrestler who would never consider taking a night off because of an injury and who goes years without taking a vacation.

"In my opinion Dusty Rhodes needs at least a year off to get back into the kind of shape where he can make a successful run at either the U.S. or World title," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "While he may at this stage be able to win a title, I don't think he'd be in shape to defend it."

Managing Editor Craig Peters con-

As Nikita Koloff lies on the mat, the victim of an unfair attack, Dusty takes care of Bobby Eaton himself (above and below). Dusty's irresistible urge to help his friends could cost him mentally as well as physically in the long run.

curred: "I'm awed by what Dusty has managed to accomplish this past year, but I feel he needs at least a year off to regain his form. He's trying to carry the weight of the whole wrestling world on his weary shoulders."

Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez was one of the few editors who did not think Dusty would benefit from an extended vacation. Characterizing all such retirement talk as "nonsense," he urged "The Dream" to stay on: "He's still a top contender for all the titles, and has shown he can still pull his weight—his own and others," Rodriguez pointed out. "He inspires both the fans and other wrestlers. Without 'The Dream,' The Four Horsemen and Eddie Gilbert's First Family would rule the NWA. Think about it."

Rodriguez' last point may be the most important of all. Dusty obviously needs a rest. But fear of the chaos that would result from his absence is what keeps "The Dream" alive and kicking. We can only hope that his difficult road will not extract too harsh a toll on his already battered self. □

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STRIKE FORCE

(Continued from page 37)

opened to all kinds of challengers.

How long will Strike Force be able to keep the belts? Can they withstand the simultaneous challenges of The Islanders, The Bolsheviks, and The Hart Foundation? Senior columnist Matt Brock believes that Strike Force is one of the strongest tag teams to evolve in years.

"An unbelievable chemistry exists between Martel and Santana, the likes of which I don't think I've ever seen," says Brock. "The parallels in their careers are uncanny."

Brock refers to their early evolution as tag team champions. Santana and Ivan Putski reigned as WWF tag champions in 1979-1980; Martel and Tony Garea twice held the WWF tag team belts in 1981 and 1982.

From there, the two pursued separate careers as singles wrestlers. Martel reached the pinnacle of his profession by defeating Jumbo Tsuruta for the AWA World heavyweight title. Santana captured the Intercontinental championship in 1985. Injuries cost both men their titles. A back injury contributed to Hansen's victory over Martel, while a damaged knee helped Savage best Santana.

Both men required surgery, and subsequently went into severe post-title slumps. "The world sort of forgot about them for a while," Brock says. "They just disappeared."

But not for long. "I believe fate brought these two men together," Brock adds. "They're both great competitors. Each man needed a title to gain confidence and put his career back on track. Neither was especially interested in singles titles. Teaming was the perfect solution. And since they've been through so much, since they're both seasoned professionals, there's really no danger of an ego conflict.

"They work so well together that you sometimes forget they're two separate men. And the more matches they have, the better they'll become. With the exception of The British Bulldogs—who they'll never face, unless they put the title up in one of those tag team tournament deals where the winner gets a title shot—I see no one capable of beating them."

Martel whips Tama across the ring. Martel and Santana work so well together that it seems as though they've been teaming for years. They even impress veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock, who deals praise out very carefully.

Such talk has reached the bulletin boards of the opposition. According to a team spokesman, Jimmy Hart is plotting new strategies day and night. "He's livid over the defeat," the source says. "He claims Martel drugged Neidhart. That's the only way he would have given up."

The Bolsheviks, Nikolai Volkoff and Boris Zukhov, insist that they'll be the next WWF tag team champions and several critics agree. "Volkoff is too strong for Santana," said one. "If Zukhov can keep Martel occupied, Volkoff will crush Tito."

Other critics claim The Islanders are too fast for the oft-injured Strike Force. But a spokesman for Strike Force defends the team: "Too fast, too slow, too weak, injury prone . . . Santana and Martel have heard all the criticisms. Their answer? It's simple. They just raise their belts over their heads and smile."

So far, so good. ☐

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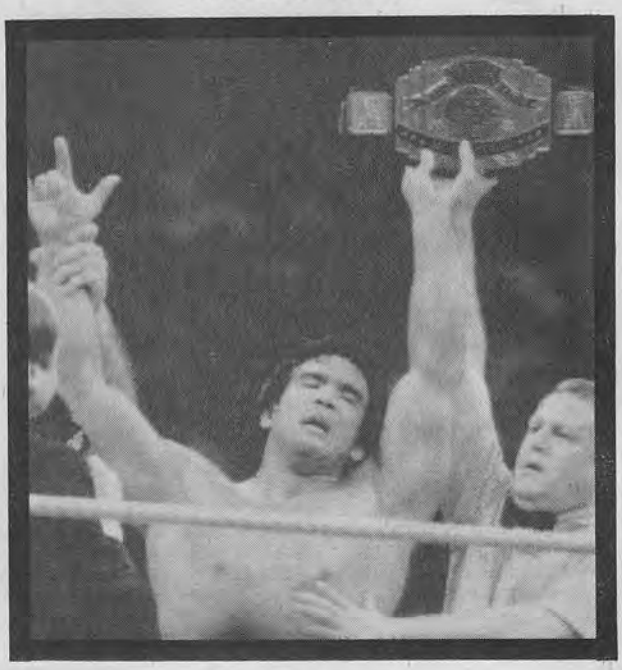

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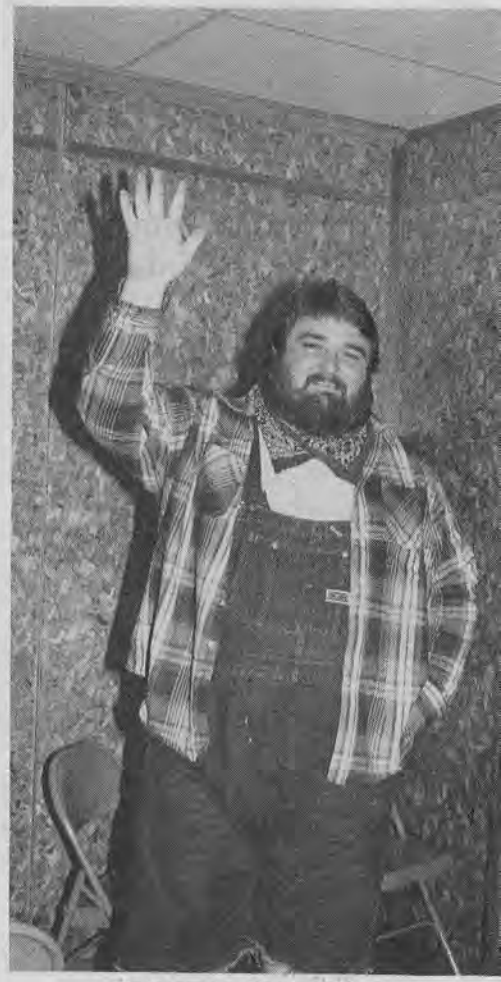
TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

hesitated to try and teach those Hennigs a lesson. I'd rather my boy follow the rules and never win the title than do what Curt did."

—Charles F. Amberson

CHARLOTTE, NC: The Mighty Wilbur, the easygoing country boy whose alliance with rulebreaking manager Paul Jones ended in violence, has befriended Dusty Rhodes.



MIGHTY WILBUR

"Dusty's one great ol' dude, not like that ol' puddin' head Paul Jones," said Wilbur."All Jones ever wanted me to do was beat up opponents after I won and ignore the fans, and that just ain't like me. I like Dusty much better. The fans love him and he treats them nice."

Rhodes is currently feuding with U.S. champion Lex Luger and faced a 90-day suspension if he lost his cage match against Luger at

Starrcade on Thanksgiving. Dusty insists, however, that he has time to teach the relatively inexperienced Wilbur the finer points of wrestling.

"What better man than 'The American Dream,' daddy, to teach Mighty Wilbur what it takes to be a champion," said Rhodes. "Dusty Rhodes has won it all, everything but the U.S. championship, and I can give him knowledge he's never had before. I can give him what Paul Jones never could."

Because of his feud with Luger, Rhodes has been in few tag team matches recently but might team with Wilbur. The Rhodes-Nikita Koloff team that won the 1987 Crockett Cup has been inactive because of each man's personal feuds.

tive Outback Jack took on Russian strongman Nikolai Volkoff. The Italian crowd whistled in outrage when Volkoff sung the Russian national anthem, but he was interrupted by a two-by-four-wielding Hacksaw Jim Duggan.

Early in the bout, Volkoff controlled the tempo with a series of punches, kicks, forearm smashes, kneelifts, headbutts, elbows, and a bearhug. When Outback Jack sent the Russian into the ropes, Duggan, out of the referee's sight, interfered from outside the ring. Outback then elbowdropped Volkoff and covered him for the pin.

Also on the card, Duggan resumed his on-again, off-again feud with The Iron Sheik with Duggan

OUTBACK JACK

MILANO, ITALY: The World Wrestling Federation held its first-ever card here on October 24 before a sellout crowd at the Palatrussardi. The show was part of the WWF's tour of Europe, which also included a sellout of its first-ever card in Paris.

In the main event, Australian na- scoring a pinfall victory.

In other bouts: Jacques and Raymond Rougeau defeated Greg Valentine and Dino Bravo, Junkyard Dog pinned Harley Race, WWF World women's champion Sherri Martel pinned Velvet McIntyre, and S.D. Jones pinned Samoan Sika.

—Robert Pastore □

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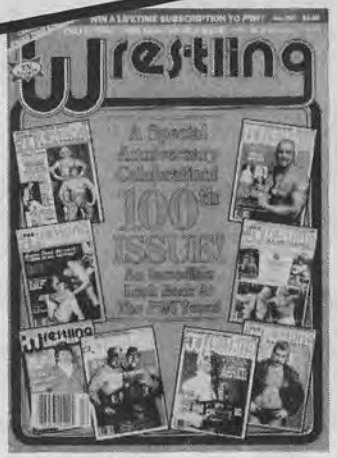

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)

to count the crowd at wrestling cards. This way the man would know the difference between a capacity crowd and a half-empty arena, and maybe he could also learn that a 23,000-seat Madison Square Garden can't hold 28,000 fans!"

Peter Reagan, Charlotte, NC: "A date with Precious for Ric Flair. I mean, he earned it, 'flair' and square."

Billy Hodgekins, Netcong, NJ: "American citizenship for Nikita Koloff. The man has shown that he's a better American than a lot of native Americans."

Bart Arthur, Tulsa, OK: "I would give Big Bubba Rogers a good, stylish pair of wrestling tights. I know he's once again Jim Cornette's bodyguard, but it seems that when he was wrestling, the fact that he always wrestled in his street clothes was a major handicap. Maybe Bubba didn't realize it, but street clothes just don't cut it in the ring. I mean, even Ric Flair sheds his three-piece suits when he decides to get involved in a match."

"Slick" Ric Flair, who always says he can have any woman he wants, kisses a mannequin. One fan would grant Flair his wish: a date with Precious.

Big Bubba Rogers should wear traditional wrestling tights, not street clothes, when he steps in the ring, said one fan.

Dave Sobel, Massapequa, NY: "A good laxative for 'Macho Man' Randy Savage. The man sounds like he's dying of constipation!"

Lisa Casey, Suffern, NY: "A chance to do it all over again for Andre the Giant; I really hated to see his unbeaten streak broken." □

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan,** Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler,** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

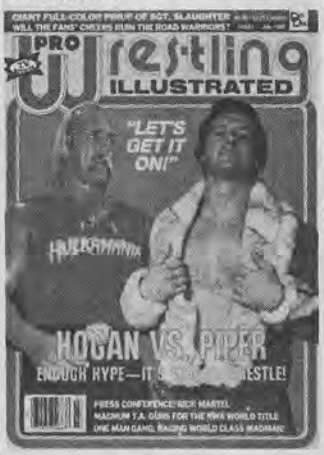
November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.


GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF SGT. SLAUGHTER
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HOGAN VS. PIPER
ENOUGH HYPE—IT'S TIME TO WRESTLE!
PRESS CONFERENCE: RICK MARTEL
MAGNUM T.A. GOES FOR THE NWA WORLD TITLE
ONE MAN GANG, RAGING WORLD CLASS MADMAN!

JULY 1985

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
Flair vs. Rikishi: MATCH OF THE YEAR!
Dusty vs. Tully: RAGE IN A CAGE!
THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH
Koloff & Kiraishikov vs. Road Warriors: IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA!
Kamala vs. Magnum T.A. THE GIANT KILLER!

DECEMBER 1985

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

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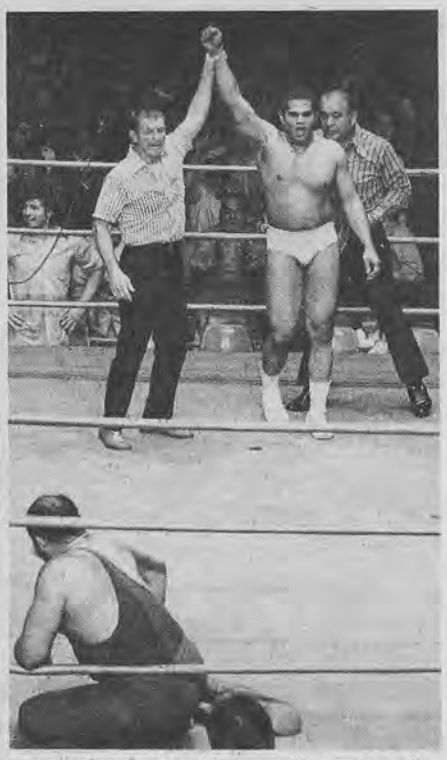
(Continued from page 12)

Harley Race; 5—George & Sandy Scott; 6—The Kentuckians; 7—Kenji Shibuya & Mitsu Arakawa; 8—Waldo & Fritz Von Erich; 9—John & Chris Tolos; 10—George Becker & Johnny Weaver.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1973

TONY GAREA WAS voted 1972's WWF "Rookie of the Year" by the fans . . . Bruno Sammartino, making a rare TV appearance, won by disqualification against Mr. Fuji when the Japanese received outside help from his WWF tag team championship partner Prof. Toru Tanaka. Arnold Skaaland, Chief Jay Strongbow, and Manuel Soto came to Bruno's aid . . . A big upset occurred in Cincinnati when Luis Martinez and Tony Parisi won the National Wrestling Federation tag team title from the Fargo brothers. After the loss, the Fargos were brought to Texas by manager J.C. Dykes, where they captured the Western States tag team belts from Lord Al Hays and Nick Kozak . . . Jacques Rougeau won a 15-man elimination tournament to crown a new NWF heavyweight champion. The title had been declared vacant when champion Johnny Valentine did not defend the belt within the required three-week period . . . Ivan Putski won an elimination tournament over 12 other wrestlers in east Texas, including Fred Curry, Jose Lothario, Johnny Valentine, Bobby Duncum, and The Missouri Mauler . . . Victor Rivera won a disqualification verdict over The Sheik to retain his Americas title in Los Angeles . . . Rivera also won the fourth annual Los Angeles 22-man battle royal and $11,000 when he forced Cyclone Negro to submit to his abdominal stretch . . . A scheduled TV match between WWF champion Pedro Morales and Fred Blassie



Victor Rivera's hand is raised in victory after he wins the fourth annual 22-man Los Angeles Battle Royal in 1973. Rivera won by forcing Cyclone Negro to submit.

had to be canceled because of an apparent injury to Blassie's arm. Blassie and his manager, Lou Albano, came into the ring with a forged doctor's note stating that Fred was unable to wrestle. As Pedro turned around to leave the ring, Blassie ripped off his sling and he and Albano ambushed the unsuspecting champion . . . Lou Albano's most unusual wrestler to date, Moondog Mayne, showed the world he could chew glass and swallow goldfish, but he was unsuccessful in several bids to win Morales' WWF championship . . . Mark Lewin and Don Curtis, one of the 1960s' top tag teams, reunited . . . Special police had to be called in to break up a brawl between Superstar Graham and Billy Robinson in Winnipeg . . . Robinson and Wahoo McDaniel won by disqualification over The Outlaws, Dusty Rhodes, and Dick Murdoch in Milwaukee . . . NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—The Sheik; 3—Victor Rivera; 4—Jack Brisco; 5—Pat Patterson; 6—The Great Mephisto; 7—Mil Mascaras; 8—Pampero Firpo; 9—Terry Funk; 10—Rufus R. Jones. WWF RATINGS:

(Continued on page 58)

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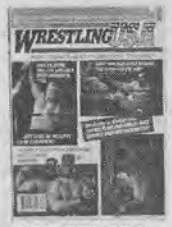

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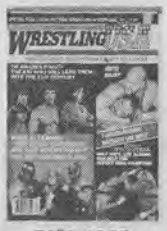

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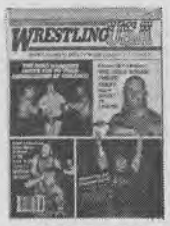

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(Continued from page 57)

1—Pedro Morales; 2—Bruno Sammartino; 3—King Curtis; 4—Moondog Mayne; 5—Fred Blassie; 6—Ray Stevens; 7—Chief Jay Strongbow; 8—Black Gordman; 9—Sonny King; 10—Prof. Tanaka. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Bruiser; 4—Crusher; 5—Superstar Graham; 6—Ivan Koloff; 7—Wahoo McDaniel; 8—Dr. X; 9—Dick Murdoch; 10—Ken Patera. TAG TEAMS: 1—Prof. Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 2—Kurt Von Hess & Karl Von Shotz; 3—Bruiser & Crusher; 4—Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza; 6—Dick Murdoch & Dusty Rhodes; 7—The Fargos; 8—Goliath & Blackjack Gordman; 9—The Vachon Brothers; 10—Johnny Weaver & Nelson Royal.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1978

BOB BACKLUND DEFEATED Superstar Graham on February 22 to win the WWF heavyweight championship. After a rugged battle, Backlund executed his atomic spine-crusher and covered Graham for the pin at the 14:51 mark. In the excitement created by 23,000 fans at Madison Square Garden, referee Jack Lotz did not notice that Graham's foot was draped across the ropes. Despite the protests of Graham and his manager, The Grand Wizard, the decision stood ... Dick Murdoch captured the Missouri title from Ted DiBiase ... Florida fans were dismayed over what appeared to be a brewing feud between Jack and Jerry Brisco and U.S. tag team champions Steve Keirn and Mike Graham ... Keirn failed in his attempt to wrestle the NWA title away from Harley Race when both men were counted out of the ring ... Andre the Giant won an 11-man battle royal in Tacoma, Washington ... In what they called their greatest victory, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell successfully defended their AWA tag team title against Jim and John Valiant ... Nelson Royal used a series of punishing backbreakers to defend his NWA junior heavyweight championship against Jimmy Golden ... The Mongolian Stomper reigned as Southeastern heavyweight champion ... Don Muraco eliminated Dean Ho to win a $25,000, 18-man battle royal in San Francisco ... Rick Steamboat lost his composure and was disqualified in his title match with U.S. champion Blackjack Mulligan ... Former two-time WWF champion Bruno Sammartino, in retirement since losing his title to Superstar Graham 10 months earlier, hinted that he would make a comeback ... Verne Gagne, who most observers agreed was in the best shape of his life, moved into the number-one challenger's position for Nick Bockwinkel's AWA belt ... Bobo Brazil and his new partner, Tiger Conway Jr., issued a challenge to NWA tag team champions Ric Flair and Greg Valentine ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—Paul Jones; 6—Blackjack Mulligan; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Rocky Johnson; 9—Terry Funk; 10—Jack Brisco. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Back-

Bob Backlund sets Superstar Graham up for an atomic drop. Ten years ago, Backlund defeated Graham for the WWF World championship, though Graham's foot was on the ropes.

(Continued on page 60)

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

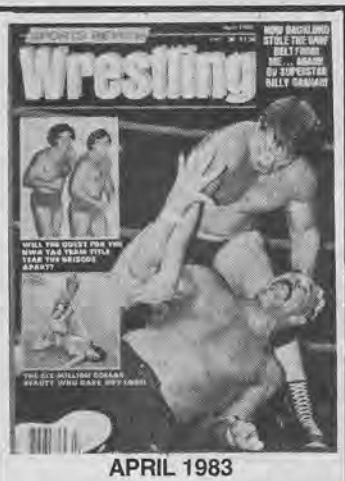
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)

lund; 2—Superstar Graham; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Spiros Arion; 5—Mil Mascaras; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Luke Graham; 8—Chief Jay Strongbow; 9—Peter Maivia; 10—Stan Stasiak. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Verne Gagne; 3—Ray Stevens; 4—Billy Robinson; 5—Larry Hennig; 6—Pat Patterson; 7—"Cowboy" Bob Orton; 8—King Kong Mosca; 9—Jim Brunzell; 10—Super Destroyer. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ric Flair & Greg Valentine; 2—Steve Keirn & Mike Graham; 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 4—Mr. Saito & Ivan Koloff; 5—Prof. Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 6—Dominic DeNucci & Dino Bravo; 7—Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 8—Paul Jones & Rick Steamboat; 9—Larry Zbyszko & Tony Garea; 10—The Valiant Brothers.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1983

PEDRO MORALES' 14-MONTH reign as WWF Intercontinental champion came to an end when Magnificent Muraco regained the title on January 22 at Madison Square Garden. Morales, whose left leg was injured during the match, couldn't withstand the weight as he lifted Muraco for a bodyslam. Morales collapsed to the mat with Muraco on top of him and was helpless as referee Dick Kroll made the three-count. Afterward, Muraco told a shocked press corps that he planned to go after WWF World champion Bob Backlund. "This is only step one in our plan," said Muraco. "What I really want is Backlund" ... The Road Warriors defeated Bret and Buzz Sawyer for the Georgia national tag belts ... Mike Graham won the Florida title from Kevin Sullivan in Miami ... Shortly after breaking into wrestling, Kerry Von Erich won his first major title by defeating Harley

Race for the Missouri belt ... Ayatollah Sheik Crusher Blackwell challenged former AWA champion Verne Gagne to come out of retirement. Blackwell and partner Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie double-teamed Greg Gagne, further injuring ribs that had already been broken in an earlier attack by the Sheiks. Seeing his son getting beaten, Verne rushed into the ring and attacked the Sheiks ... Barry Windham suffered a concussion when he was attacked by King Kong Mosca and Bad Bad Leroy Brown during a taping of *Global Wrestling* from Florida ... Ivan Koloff returned to the WWF amid speculation that he would go after Backlund ... Larry Zbyszko came to the Georgia area vowing to prove that Tommy Rich, Paul Orndorff, Dick Murdoch, and others were unworthy of the fans' respect ... Eddy Mansfield, on tour in Europe, announced that he would return in early April to go after Kerry Von Erich's Missouri title ... Shohei "Giant" Baba regained the Pacific Wrestling Federation title from Harley Race ... WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Magnificent Muraco; 3—John Studd; 4—Jimmy Snuka; 5—Superstar Graham; 6—Pedro Morales; 7—Ray Stevens; 8—Rocky Johnson; 9—Buddy Rose; 10—Eddie Gilbert. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Wahoo McDaniel; 5—Jerry Lawler; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Jesse Ventura; 8—Crusher Blackwell; 9—Tully Blanchard; 10—Mad Dog Vachon. NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Paul Orndorff; 4—Mike Graham; 5—Kerry Von Erich; 6—Jack Brisco; 7—Bob Armstrong; 8—Barry Windham; 9—Harley Race; 10—Roddy Piper. TAG TEAMS: 1—Sgt. Slaughter & Don Kernodle; 2—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 3—Jay & Jules Strongbow; 4—The Samoans; 5—The Moondogs; 6—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 7—The Freebirds; 8—Rick Morton & Ken Lucas; 9—Rick Steamboat & Jay Strongbow; 10—Crusher Blackwell & Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. □

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

he'll get rid of Elizabeth, turn bad, hire Mr. Fuji as his manager, and *really* look like a grappling ghoul!

PHILLIP BRUNO
New York

THE ACCUSATIONS FLY

I read your "We Accuse" article in the November 1987 issue regarding the fans being fickle in their cheers, and I have this little bit of history to share with you.

When Bob Orton used the cast on his arm to an unfair advantage, officials did nothing about. Reader Emil Wolanski views that as favoritism to rulebreakers.

Cowboy Bob Orton suffered a broken arm, and it stayed broken for a whole year—while he used it on the heads of Jimmy Snuka, Paul Orndorff, Hulk Hogan, and Mr. T. And WWF officials sat on their duffs and did nothing—until Orndorff retaliated by putting a cast on *his* arm. Then the officials fined *both* men.

To cite an even more recent exam-

(Continued on page 64)

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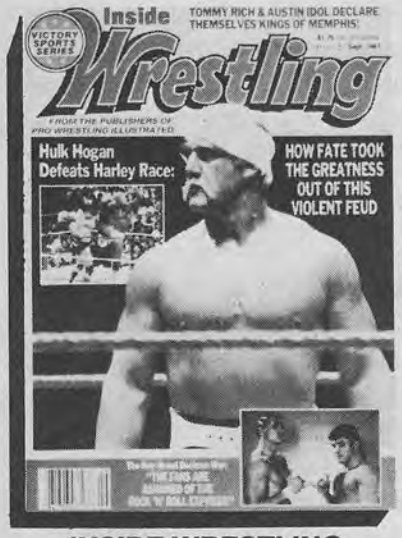
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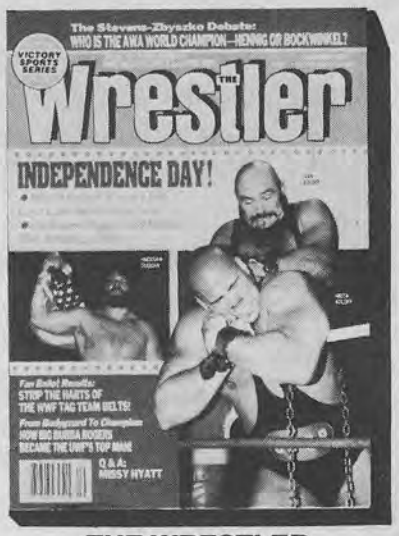
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 62)

ple: Jim Cornette uses his tennis racket a lot—but not for tennis. Cornette has used it to win his Midnight Express the NWA World tag team title in the past, and to save their current U.S. tag team title in countless other matches. So what do the NWA officials do? They fine Cornette $5,000—as if Cornette will really miss the dough. They should ban the tennis racket from ringside.

Tully Blanchard cost Dusty Rhodes his third NWA World title by injuring Dusty's leg the night before Dusty's match against Ric Flair. So when Dusty in turn injures Tully's leg, everyone put him down for doing a "dastardly deed." And the list goes on and on.

If rulebreakers can't take the tables being turned on them, they should give up the sport. Therefore, *I* accuse *Sports Review Wrestling* of running a false "We Accuse" article!

EMIL R. WOLANSKI
Cleveland

BERATING OUR RATINGS

This letter is intended to express my disappointment with some of your recent ratings, specifically:

1—Hulk Hogan: You've stated that ratings are based on won-lost records, quality of opposition, and skill. It is a well-known fact that Hulk wrestles seldomly, faces only rulebreakers, and uses little skill. So why is he at number two? Looking at your Top 10 of December, he should be dropped to number eight. Numbers three through seven show more moves and wrestle more than he does, so act accordingly.

2—Curt Hennig: He only wrestles in non-title matches if possible, and thus should be dropped completely.

3—The Honky Tonk Man: Never, don't do it! A disastrous mistake if you enter him in the Top 10. Remember your criteria! There must surely be at least 10 wrestlers better than him at any given time.

LANCE BOYD
Calgary, Alberta☐

TOMMY RICH

(Continued from page 39)

D.J. Peterson and J.T. Southern comfort Rich after a characteristically bloody battle. They've promised to back Rich in his fight against the "Dangerous Alliance."

all. Because in addition to Adonis, I now have in my stable the new AWA tag team champs, the 'Original' Midnight Express."

Dangerously also shed some light on why the attack had taken place in the first place. He has been burning for revenge ever since having his leg broken following a Memphis scaffold match between his wrestlers, Rich and Austin Idol, and Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee. Rather than aid their fallen manager, Rich and Idol abandoned him in the ring, and that's something Dangerously won't soon forget.

"You can't imagine the pain I was feeling that day in Memphis," Dangerously said. "Oh, not so much the physical pain; I can take a 20-foot fall from a scaffold. But to see those two cowards just walk out on me, after I gave them all the benefit of my managerial brilliance. And then after they failed so miserably and I put my body on the line to restore their dignity . . . brother, that hurts bad, real bad."

There's no denying the influence Dangerously has had on Rich's career since he began managing "Wildfire" in Memphis. But since coming to the AWA, Rich has been attempting to walk a straight and narrow path, one that does not include any association at all with Dangerously.

Rich must now force a final decision with his former manager. Tommy was glad to make a fresh start in the AWA, where he could concentrate on capturing a world title and not become bogged down in senseless feuds. But trouble seems to follow Rich, and in this case that trouble comes in the form of Paul E. Dangerously who, not-so-coincidentally, followed Rich to the AWA.

"I'm telling you, baby, I ain't forgetting what those two did to me," Rich said. "I'm gonna beat that Adrian Adonis so bad, hurt the man, so that he'll never wrestle again. Adrian Adonis will pay for my humiliation. But I got something totally different planned for that Dangerously runt."

Such as?

"I thought this out a lot," the former NWA champion said. "There's really no use hurting Dangerously, because he just keeps coming back again and again, on crutches, a wheelchair, *anything.* So beating him'll be like pullin' out dandelions in May. What 'Wildfire' is gonna do is embarrass him, embarrass him so bad that he'll never show his face around here again."

When told of Rich's intentions, the young manager remained calm. "What could be more embarrassing to me than the fact that I once managed Tommy Rich? If I can live with that, I can live with anything."

His tone was deadly serious. Perhaps nothing can embarrass such a man. But then again, Tommy Rich would like to try. Any way he possibly can. □

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